

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

COPY

In Re:

WEATHERIZATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM
PUBLIC HEARING

PUBLIC HEARING

HELD BEFORE: CARLENE O. TAYLOR, HEARING OFFICER

DATE: MAY 5, 2009

HELD AT: DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

25 SIGOURNEY STREET
CONFERENCE ROOM 2A
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106

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1 (Hearing commenced at 10:20 a.m.)

2

3 HEARING OFFICER TAYLOR: Good morning.

4 My name is Carlene Taylor and I'm the manager of
5 the Community Energy and Refugee Services for the
6 Department of Social Services. One of my
7 responsibilities is the administration of the U.S.
8 Department of Energy Weatherization Assistance
9 Program. I am here to welcome you to this public
10 hearing on May 5th, 2009 at DSS in Hartford, and,
11 simultaneously, there is also a hearing at the
12 Watermark at 1030 -- I'm sorry -- at 3030 Park
13 Avenue in Bridgeport, Connecticut, for the purpose
14 of accepting comments on the proposed programs.

15 This public hearing is being held in
16 accordance with the United States Department of
17 Energy regulation 10 CFR Part 440, specifically
18 Section 440.14, which requires that the State shall
19 conduct one or more public hearings for the purpose
20 of receiving comments on the proposed State plan.

21 This hearing is being held to provide an
22 opportunity for Connecticut citizens to comment on
23 the proposed Weatherization Assistance For Low
24 Income Persons Program State Plan, in the amount of
25 \$64,310,502, made available through the American

1 Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, Public Law
2 111-5. The plan shall some comply with applicable
3 law, including regulations of the United States
4 Department of Energy, 10 CFR 440, Final Rule,
5 especially sections 440.12 and 440.14. The hearing
6 will also cover comments and suggestions on the
7 selection of subgrantees for the purpose of the
8 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Program.

9 The public hearing will also cover amendments
10 to the current state plan in the amount of
11 \$5,315,348 in order to parallel the services
12 offered in the proposed ARRA -- short --
13 Weatherization Plan and incorporate some changes
14 made in the program. The amount is a decrease in
15 the funding amount originally provided to DSS and
16 the amendment provides the final allocation for the
17 period covered in the plan. In addition, the goals
18 for the numbers of units to be weatherized have
19 been revised as the average expenditure per unit
20 has been increased to \$6,500.

21 Please note that if you wish to comment, there
22 is a sign up sheet -- I think most of you have
23 signed up -- at the entrance, and people will speak
24 in order -- those who signed in first. Comments
25 will be accepted until 1:30 p.m. today. Even if

1 you are not speaking, we do ask that you sign up,
2 so we have, for the record, who attended the
3 hearing.

4 If you wish to submit comments in writing, you
5 may do so either by e-mailing them to
6 brenda.geltzer@ct.gov or by sending the comments to
7 Carlene Taylor, Program Manager, Weatherization
8 Assistance Program, Department of Social Services,
9 25 Sigourney Street, Hartford, Connecticut 06106,
10 no later than 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday, May 6, 2009.

11 If you also have written comments, we are
12 accepting them and there's some folders that say
13 written comments that you may have. Even if you
14 spoke publicly and you have copies, we will accept
15 those copies. Thank you.

16 I will now provide a quick overview of what is
17 included in the proposed State plan, and then open
18 the hearing to public comment.

19 Before I get into the information regarding
20 the -- the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act
21 Program -- we'll call it ARRA from now on -- I just
22 want to go -- we do have another program that is
23 currently in place. It's our regular
24 weatherization program, and that program started
25 April 1st, 2009 and it is a two-year grant that

1 goes through March 31st, 2011. We had to make some
2 changes to that program, so we will be submitting
3 an amendment to the Department of Energy. It was
4 actually due last Friday, but because we're only
5 having our public hearing today we requested an
6 extension to next Friday.

7 As I mentioned, the final allocations were
8 reduced from what we originally received, so we had
9 to make some adjustments in the allocations that we
10 provided to the agencies, and there were copies.
11 Any other -- we increased the income guidelines to
12 sixty percent of the State median income.
13 Originally, it was two hundred percent of the
14 federal public guideline. And because the average
15 expenditure per unit was increased from an average
16 of \$2,500 -- it was a little over \$3,000 this year,
17 and that has now been increased to \$6,500 per
18 unit -- we had to revise the number of units that
19 we were now going to weatherize in the regular
20 program. So these adjustments have been made.

21 Those are the changes in the regular program.
22 And, also, anything -- any changes -- any new
23 things that we have in the Recovery Act Program,
24 those also pertain to the regular program. So
25 we're running, really, a seamless program so that

1 some citizens sometimes are not benefiting from one
2 program versus another because of the different
3 funding. So just to make that clear, to cover the
4 amendment. We do have to cover that in the public
5 hearing to let people know that we made those
6 changes, so I wanted to take care of that first
7 before we move on to the other.

8 As you know, the American Recovery and
9 Reinvestment Act -- the amount is \$64.3 million,
10 and these funds are temporary. They're only for
11 three years. Contract period is from April 1st,
12 2009 to March 31st, 2012. And the program has
13 significantly increased from what we normally do in
14 the regular program. Our regular program is
15 usually 2.5 to \$3 million a year. This is now
16 \$64.3 million over three years. So it's an average
17 of almost \$21.5 million per year.

18 We submitted our initial application by March
19 23rd. We had to submit our regular plan by May
20 12th, 2009. We have to have a public hearing
21 before that plan can be submitted, and this is
22 fulfilling that requirement.

23 As I mentioned in our -- in my statement,
24 there are two locations that we're having the
25 public hearing: Here in Hartford and also in

1 Bridgeport. And we had available draft copies of
2 the plans; if -- if anyone needs more copies, they
3 are available online, and they're online at the
4 www.ct.gov/dss website.

5 These new funds will work to stimulate the
6 economy by creating new weatherization training
7 jobs and projects to lead to new and sustainable
8 green technology jobs, and increase the energy
9 efficiency and reduce energy cost for low income
10 households. We intend on creating and/or retaining
11 approximately six hundred forty jobs with the --
12 our funding, and we'll work -- this will include
13 developing a green workforce. Over the three-year
14 period, we plan on weatherizing a minimum of seven
15 thousand five hundred units.

16 Currently, our income guideline is two hundred
17 percent of the federal poverty limit. We are going
18 to sixty percent of the State median income.

19 That's the same level we use for the energy
20 program. And also the utility funded programs and
21 the Fuel Oil Conservation Board Program, they also
22 use sixty percent of State median income. So this
23 will allow for better coordination of all those
24 other services and programs that we provide.

25 We -- anyone within those income limits

1 qualify for the program, but we will prioritize
2 vulnerable households, high energy users, and
3 households who pay for their own heat with those
4 who we weatherize. Here we -- in the regulations,
5 they do allow states to prioritize their services,
6 especially to vulnerable households.

7 Any household is eligible. We do
8 single-family, mobile homes, multi-family
9 buildings, as long as they were not previously
10 weatherized within a certain time limit that the
11 household is income eligible. We also do not
12 weatherize units if they are for sale, if they're
13 in foreclosure, or if they're in major need of
14 rehabilitation. We will work with entities that
15 are rehabbing houses, but the program does not,
16 itself, rehab houses. Units weatherized prior to
17 September 30th, 1994 may be re-weatherized again.

18 For multi-family dwellings -- two to four unit
19 multi-family dwellings -- at least fifty percent of
20 those units must be eligible. Anything more than
21 that, at least two-thirds of the dwelling units
22 must be eligible. And landlords must agree to have
23 the weatherization of the unit done, and we do
24 require landlord contribution. We ask for twenty
25 percent of the material cost, or \$500 per eligible

1 unit -- whichever is the -- whichever is lower.

2 For the purpose of weatherization, an energy
3 audit is performed in each unit to determine the
4 measures to be installed. And the typical measures
5 include health and safety inspection, existing
6 tune-up and repairs, attic and side-wall
7 insulation, blower guided air-sealing to reduce
8 drafts, and storm windows. There are other
9 measures, but those are the primary measures that
10 we do within the program.

11 As previously mentioned, the new spending
12 limit is now \$6,500 per dwelling unit. We are
13 proposing to have a maximum spending limit per unit
14 of \$10,000. The increase allows us to do more
15 measures within a home, but we always want to make
16 sure that we are not -- you know, we're making sure
17 that we're not going way overboard on some units,
18 and, therefore, not having enough money to
19 weatherize all those that are eligible. Within the
20 maximum health and safety spending limit, we are
21 proposing to limit that to \$2,500.

22 We are proposing to allocate the \$64.3 million
23 as follows: We are planning to allocate 28.5
24 million to the Community Action Agencies; the
25 Connecticut Department of Economic and Community

1 Development, \$20 million; the Department of Labor,
2 the Workforce Investment Boards, and -- I'm sorry,
3 I don't remember what else --

4 CLAUDETTE BEAULIEU: The Office of
5 Workforce Competitiveness.

6 HEARING OFFICER TAYLOR: The Office of
7 Workforce Competitiveness. It's nice to have
8 someone to the side to help me. We are proposing
9 to allocate \$3.5 million; and the community
10 colleges -- community college, technical college
11 system and the vocational technical high schools,
12 \$1.5 million; special projects and initiatives,
13 \$7.1 million; and for the Department of Social
14 Services for administration and for training and
15 technical activities, \$3.7 million, for a total of
16 \$64.3 million. I will go into more detail as to
17 how each of these funds will be allocated.

18 Of the \$64.3 million, up to \$11.8 million is
19 available for training and technical assistance
20 activities. The importance of the training that's
21 needed in this program is recognized, and,
22 therefore, when we receive our allocation each
23 year, they allocate -- out of that, they allocate a
24 separate part just for those activities.

25 Up to ten percent, or \$6.4 million, may be

1 used for administrative purposes. Five percent --
2 half of that, or five percent of the total will go
3 to subgrantees to oversee the operation and
4 implementation of this program.

5 All funds must be spent in accordance with the
6 Department of Energy's regulations governing the
7 Weatherization Assistance Program.

8 We will continue to stretch our dollars, even
9 though they be more. We will continue to work in
10 partnership with the entities that we've been
11 working in partnership for the last fifteen,
12 eighteen years. The Connecticut Light and Power
13 Weatherization Residential Partnership Program and
14 the United Illuminating Helps Program. We'll use
15 those program funds, leveraging with them to
16 install additional measures on the jobs or to
17 install measures that we normally could not do
18 within our Weatherization Program or previously
19 limited funds. The utility funded programs allow
20 us to do that.

21 The funding for the energy audits come from
22 the major utility companies: The Connecticut Light
23 and Power, United Illuminating, Yankee Gas
24 Services, Connecticut Natural Gas, and Southern
25 Connecticut Gas Company.

1 Okay. Go into more detail regarding the
2 expenditures of the funds. The DSS proposes to
3 distribute the additional funds to both existing
4 Weatherization subgrantees that are in good
5 standing with the Department of Social Services,
6 and other public or private nonprofit partners that
7 have experience with training and or serving the
8 housing needs or low income clients.

9 Each subgrantee must be a community action
10 agency or other public or nonprofit entity, be
11 selected on the basis of public comment received
12 during a public hearing based on subgrantee's
13 experience and performance in weatherization or
14 housing renovation, the subgrantee's experience
15 assisting low income households, and the
16 subgrantee's capacity to undertake a timely and
17 effective weatherization program.

18 As stated in the regulations, preference will
19 be given to any community action agency or public
20 and/or nonprofit agency which has or is now
21 administering an effective program.

22 DSS, by working with these existing
23 subgrantees and new partners, will be able to bring
24 certain economies of scale in the expenditures of
25 these funds, especially in the areas of eligibility

1 determination, program operation, oversight of the
2 program, training and technical assistance, and
3 recordkeeping and recording.

4 Our planned subgrantees for the weatherization
5 and insulation measures in low income households
6 will be four of our current subgrantees: The
7 Action for Bridgeport Community Development, Inc.,
8 or ABCD, for Bridgeport area; the Community Renewal
9 Team that serves the Hartford and Middletown area;
10 New Opportunities that serves Waterbury and the
11 Meriden area; The ACCESS Agency that serves
12 Willimantic and the Norwich areas. New Haven area
13 will be served by subgrantee to be determined, and
14 part of those will be based on comments today. And
15 we also will be using the Connecticut Department of
16 Economic and Community Development, or DECD, for
17 weatherizing the State fund and for low income
18 housing.

19 The Department reserves the right to select
20 additional subgrantees as deemed necessary to
21 accomplish the purposes of this act.

22 We are encouraging our subgrantees to use the
23 other community action agencies that are in good
24 standing and have past experience with the
25 Weatherization Program, they already work with low

1 income clients, and are knowledgeable of the needs
2 in their catchment areas and who work as temporary
3 subcontractors to accomplish the work for which
4 this funding is available.

5 Previously, our twelve community action
6 agencies were subgrantees for the Weatherization
7 Program. In 1995, our program was cut in half,
8 basically, and we had to make a tough decision at
9 that time to decrease the number of agencies doing
10 weatherization work, and we did that based on the
11 five regions. This is now an opportunity for those
12 agencies to work with the departments in providing
13 additional services to their clients in those
14 catchment areas.

15 The temporary subcontractors that I mentioned
16 are going to be TEAM in Derby; the Human Resources
17 Agency of New Britain that serves the City of New
18 Britain; Norwalk Economic Opportunities Now that
19 serve the Norwalk area; Thames Valley Council for
20 Community Action that serves the Norwich and New
21 London area; CTE that serves Stamford; and,
22 recently, the Bristol Community Organization has
23 been added to this list of agencies -- temporary
24 subgrantees that will be able to participate.

25 The Department of Economic and Community

1 Development will be allocated funds to weatherize
2 the State funded low income public housing.
3 Connecticut's only one of four states that has used
4 State funds to build low income housing. This was
5 done over fifty years ago. Most of that stuff is
6 now very old and in need of services to make those
7 homes more energy efficient. Many of these include
8 units where -- that are electrically heated. You
9 know where the electric costs have gone recently,
10 and many of these units are elderly units where
11 households have found that while they can afford
12 the rent, their heating costs have increased
13 significantly. So it's our hope to be able to
14 weatherize some of those units, make them more
15 energy efficient, and lower the bills of those
16 households.

17 DECD will serve as a subgrantee and will
18 provide weatherization to approximately two
19 thousand eight hundred and fifty units of State
20 financed public housing. As I mentioned, they
21 house very low income elders; also, persons with
22 disabilities and families that have children under
23 six years of age or very high energy bills, and
24 those meet all the qualifications for those who
25 receive prioritized services in the program.

1 We will first -- DECD will first look to
2 weatherize elderly housing units where heat is not
3 included as a first priority, and then we'll go
4 onto the housing with tenants who have a disability
5 or with children under six years of age.

6 Special projects and initiatives. We propose
7 to allocate approximately \$7.1 million to these
8 initiatives. The Department of Energy allows for
9 the weatherization of shelters, and we expect to
10 allocate approximately \$3 million for the
11 weatherization of shelters, focusing on homeless
12 shelters, domestic violence shelters, and
13 transitional housing shelters.

14 Subgrantees that meet or exceed production
15 goals will have access to an incentive pool for
16 which we have also allocated \$3 million.
17 Performance-based incentives will be available to
18 existing subgrantees that use the Recovery Act
19 Funds effectively and efficiently. The funds will
20 be allocated according to a formula ensuring
21 equitable distribution statewide. These funds are
22 not just going to the agencies because they
23 exceeded their codes. These funds will be used to
24 weatherize additional units.

25 We also propose to use some of these funds in

1 the training and employment field, where we will be
2 working with partners such as the Connecticut
3 Department of Labor, Workforce Investment Boards,
4 Community and Technical College Network, the
5 Vocational Technical High School System, the Office
6 of Workforce Competitiveness, the Institute for
7 Sustainable Energy, and The Conservation Services
8 Group, to ensure that persons are not just only
9 trained for greener jobs, but also trained to
10 complete the work and meet the requirements of the
11 program.

12 Recruitment will target a diverse population.
13 Some of you know what the economy has done to
14 persons and their jobs, some unskilled, low income
15 individuals, persons with disabilities, older
16 adults, veterans, and displaced and unemployed
17 workers will all be encouraged to obtain jobs.

18 Part of the Recovery Act goals are to create
19 and retain jobs, especially in this green
20 workforce. We expect to create and retain
21 approximately six hundred forty jobs over the
22 three-year period. A range -- most of these jobs
23 will go to crew workers and installers that work in
24 the program, both at the agency level and also with
25 subcontractors who will need to hire people to

1 install the additional measures, and also intake
2 and eligibility energy auditors -- that will be an
3 important part of our program -- people who tell
4 clients how to better lower their energy bills, how
5 to make sure that the measures that are installed
6 in their homes are used effectively. Program
7 administration, fiscal people, trainers, even
8 persons who sell the equipment, these -- hopefully,
9 these will all create and retain jobs in these
10 fields.

11 Core competences are required in the program
12 in Connecticut. We have a certification training
13 for energy auditors, but we also expect
14 competencies in all the fields within the
15 weatherization program. We have to ensure that
16 there are safe work practices, that workers know
17 how to do building evaluations, measure
18 installations, how to provide consumer education,
19 how to do program management, and how to conduct
20 training.

21 Some of -- of the services and training that
22 will be provided, that we already provide in our
23 regular program but will now be expanded, will be
24 OSHA training, safety in general -- ladder safety,
25 electrical safety, how to use power tools. And,

1 also, there are more qualified trainers that --
2 workers that will need to know how to use, for
3 example, the use of our blower door that locate air
4 leakage areas and air sealing. Persons will learn
5 how to install attic and sidewall insulation. We
6 hope that these opportunities will provide -- will
7 be provided through on-the-job training and present
8 partnerships.

9 Important in the Recovery Act Program is
10 transparency and accountability of the funds that
11 are available through the Act. The Department of
12 Energy has maintained that integrity will be
13 maintained in the Program, and we are going to make
14 sure that that's effectively carried out. We are
15 committed to that and we will ensure that our
16 subgrantees are also committed to ensuring the
17 fiscal responsibility in this type of program.

18 Subgrantees currently are required to inspect
19 all the work that's done in the dwelling before it
20 can be submitted to us here at DSS for approval and
21 reimbursement. Comprehensive monitoring will be
22 conducted at each subgrantee and its partner
23 agencies, and we will also provide the same
24 oversight to any partner agency that becomes a
25 subgrantee.

1 DOE has minimum requirements regarding the
2 monitoring of the program. We expect to exceed
3 that by more than double. The DOE currently
4 requires that ten percent of all units that are
5 weatherized, that we do a follow-up review of ten
6 percent of those files and do an inspection of five
7 percent of those units that re-weatherized. We
8 expect the minimum to be twenty percent file
9 reviews of the units that have been weatherized and
10 inspect at least twelve percent of those units.

11 We currently have two staff persons to do that
12 in the Department. They provide financial and
13 program management, operating -- this is part of
14 their review -- file reviews, inspection of work in
15 process and completed jobs, procurement procedures,
16 inventory control, operation and maintenance of
17 vehicles and equipment, and also to ensure adequacy
18 of coverage of service areas.

19 I have one fiscal person, and that person
20 processes all the monthly financial reports -- so
21 now with all these additional units, we will, you
22 know, have to look at that -- complete all the
23 reports that are needed for the agencies -- for
24 Department of Energy and also for us here at DSS --
25 also provide the annual comprehensive fiscal

1 monitoring of subgrantees, and review the
2 procurement procedures to ensure that everything
3 that's installed meet federal specifications and
4 contractors are selected in a fair manner.

5 DSS will also ensure that the Recovery Act
6 requirements concerning transparency and
7 accountability are met. This includes auditing
8 financial transactions in the funding and payment
9 cycles, and ensuring that the state and federal
10 single audit requirements are met.

11 So with these additional -- with these duties
12 that we already carry out and the additional staff
13 and the additional duties that are expected, it is
14 our hope here at DSS to hire additional staff to
15 make sure that we meet the federal requirements and
16 ensure that the integrity and transparency are
17 maintained.

18 DSS also intends to hire a durational project
19 manager to oversee the operation of this program.
20 And the responsibilities will include planning and
21 statewide coordination of weatherization,
22 identifying the needs for program capacity and
23 training, ensuring the statewide program
24 consistency and adherence to program
25 specifications, rules, and regulations are met, and

1 providing the necessary technical assistance for
2 effective program development.

3

4 (Crowd applauds.)

5

6 HEARING OFFICER TAYLOR: That's a basic
7 overview of the Program. As I said, the plan is
8 online if people want to read, in detail, the
9 specifics of the plan. And we will now start with
10 comments. Written comments are accepted until
11 tomorrow at 4:30 p.m. And, again, as I mentioned,
12 if you do have written comments and would like to
13 leave a copy, they're here. Please make sure you
14 state your name and the organization or company
15 you're representing. And, also, if you have a
16 business card, if you can leave it with the
17 transcriber, also. Thanks.

18 And I will be accepting comments until one.
19 You are free to stay here until one if you wish.
20 The purpose here is just really to accept the
21 comments to -- any that you may have. And please
22 make sure that you sign the sheet -- if anyone came
23 in late, please make sure you sign the sheet that's
24 there. And if you're only planning to observe and
25 not to testify, you can just check that off,

1 please.

2 And now I'm going to call the first person
3 that has listed that he will be testifying, and
4 that's Greg Secord.

5 I just heard we have to leave here at 12:00.
6 So if there are people still here, we will move
7 next door.

8 GREG SECORD: Good afternoon. My name is
9 Greg Secord. I am representing a national
10 nonprofit called Rebuilding Together. Rebuilding
11 Together has four affiliates here in Connecticut.
12 My goal here today to have our organization
13 recognized as a vital 1(c)(3) that does
14 weatherization work. And, basically, our mission
15 is to provide free home repairs, accessibility
16 modifications, and energy efficiency enhancements
17 for low income homeowners. Our affiliates serve
18 the cities of Hartford, Manchester, New Britain,
19 Litchfield County, and Fairfield County. We are
20 part of a national organization with over two
21 hundred affiliates across the country, and in a
22 typical year, nationally, we do ten thousand
23 projects.

24 The thing that's unique about our program is
25 that we essentially use volunteers to complete most

1 of our work. There are occasions where we do hire
2 contractors -- hire trained contractors when the
3 project dictates it. In Connecticut, we do
4 approximately two hundred twenty-five projects in a
5 year's time. We would like to increase our
6 capacity to do additional projects. We're looking
7 to ARRA as a potential resource to help us with
8 that capacity building.

9 Our typical homeowners that we serve are, as I
10 mentioned, low income. We serve the elderly,
11 people living with disabilities, and families with
12 children, and we use fifty percent below median
13 income as a guideline for choosing projects. Our
14 affiliates do year round programming, and the --
15 essentially every project we do, we're doing some
16 energy efficiency modifications. We would like to
17 expand what we're doing to better serve the low
18 income homeowners in Connecticut.

19 That's it. Thank you.

20 HEARING OFFICER TAYLOR: Thank you. Next
21 is Peter Barhydt.

22 PETER BARHYDT: My name is Peter Barhydt
23 and I'm here today representing Rebuilding Together
24 Litchfield County. Thank you for the opportunity
25 to comment on the proposed Weatherization

1 Assistance for Low Income Persons Program. I would
2 like to take the opportunity to talk about
3 Rebuilding Together Litchfield County and how our
4 two missions complement one another.

5 Rebuilding Together, formerly Christmas in
6 April, is the nation's largest nonprofit working to
7 preserve affordable homeownership. Rebuilding
8 Together works through its more than two hundred
9 affiliates across the nation to repair the homes of
10 low income Americans.

11 Our affiliate, Rebuilding Together Litchfield
12 County, was started in 2002 with a mission to
13 rebuild lives one home at a time. We assist
14 elderly and low income homeowners with vital home
15 maintenance and renovations so that they can
16 continue to live independently.

17 Over the last seven years, Rebuilding Together
18 Litchfield County has repaired over a hundred homes
19 and provided more than a million dollars in
20 services and supplies. Last month alone, more than
21 two hundred volunteers worked on twelve different
22 homes. Our incredible volunteers are highly
23 skilled builders, master carpenters, plumbers,
24 electricians, as well as businessmen, church
25 groups, school groups, friends, and neighbors who

1 generously give of their time and talents.

2 The materials to complete these projects are
3 often donated or discounted by partners such as
4 Bradco Supply in Danbury, and others. Our ability
5 to use volunteers and to receive discounted and
6 donated materials means we get more done with less.

7 We repair roofs, install new doors, make
8 bathrooms handicapped accessible, replace windows,
9 work on plumbing, wiring, tiling, and painting. We
10 generally do just about any kind of home repair you
11 can imagine. But there is always more to do, and
12 our waiting list is growing.

13 Each home we work on comes to us through an
14 extensive referral system and application process.
15 Our trained master carpenters visit each applicant
16 to determine eligibility and scope of work, and
17 routinely conduct energy and weatherization audits.
18 We have houses right now that are in need of
19 extensive weatherization, including roof
20 replacement and installing new windows.

21 Rebuilding Together Litchfield County
22 enthusiastically endorses the mission of the
23 Weatherization Assistance for Low Income Persons
24 Program. We understand first-hand the need for and
25 the benefits of weatherizing homes. We also

1 applaud the selection of the subgrantees and are
2 encouraged to see one hundred percent coverage in
3 all five congressional districts.

4 We hope, however, that the Department of
5 Social Services and the subgrantees will partner
6 with other existing organizations to complete the
7 goals and missions of this project. Our Rebuilding
8 Together affiliate has the expertise and volunteers
9 to complete these projects without delay.

10 In Litchfield County alone, there is a
11 dramatic need for federal weatherization funds.
12 Besides the homes we have currently on our waiting
13 list who need weatherization, we have the network
14 and infrastructure in place to review applications,
15 determine the scope of work, and complete the
16 projects quickly.

17 By working with existing organizations, DSS
18 and the subgrantees will be able to avoid a lengthy
19 and protracted process. We have established an
20 application process that, while comprehensive, has
21 been designed to move the applicant through the
22 system quickly. We have thorough reporting and
23 post-project analysis that must be submitted to our
24 national headquarters to ensure we are maintaining
25 best practices. With the systems already in place,

1 Rebuilding Together Litchfield County is ready to
2 accept applications to complete projects almost
3 immediately in order to complete as many as
4 possible before next winter. The only thing we
5 lack is additional funding.

6 There is a real and dramatic need in
7 Litchfield County for weatherization projects. If
8 we announced tomorrow, through our network of
9 ministers, social service workers, and local
10 governments that we are accepting applications for
11 additional weatherization projects, we would be
12 inundated.

13 I hope you will keep Rebuilding Together in
14 mind as a potential partner as you move forward
15 with this vital program. Thank you.

16 HEARING OFFICER TAYLOR: Rich Soderman.

17 RICHARD SODERMAN: Good morning. My name
18 is Richard Soderman. I'm here on behalf of the
19 Connecticut Light and Power Company and Yankee Gas
20 Services Company. Here with me today is Cathy
21 Lezon, who is responsible for many of our
22 conservation programs, including the weatherization
23 residential assistance program that serves low
24 income or limited income customers in our program.

25 What we're here today to do is offer our

1 assistance to DSS and the other program
2 implementers. We have great experience in energy
3 efficiency. We have an annual budget this year of
4 \$67 million. In our residential programs alone, we
5 have a budget of about \$30 million. Our WRAP
6 program has a budget of about \$9 million this year.
7 We average about ten thousand applications per year
8 in that program.

9 Really, our goal for our being here today is
10 to offer our assistance to the Department. And,
11 specifically, because the increase from about two
12 and a half million dollars to \$64 million will
13 create challenges to the delivery system, what we
14 suggest is that the possibility of using the Energy
15 Conservation Management Board and the electric
16 distribution companies to assist in the deployment
17 of the AAR -- Weatherization Program and that that
18 perhaps be noted in the draft report that's
19 submitted to the DOE.

20 While additional work would be needed to
21 determine if and how our participation would be
22 appropriate, it could further the discussion of
23 that matter and remove the need for future
24 puppeteerings for the inclusion of us in that
25 process at this time.

1 Again, we stand ready to help the agency. We
2 have copies of our pre-filed testimony that
3 describes our experience and track record on energy
4 efficiency programs and low income weatherization
5 programs, so that could be considered by the
6 department. Thank you.

7 HEARING OFFICER TAYLOR: Thank you.

8 Bruce Hayn. Deborah Monahan has requested to
9 go with Monahan. Does anyone have any -- okay.

10 BRUCE HAYN: Good morning. My name is
11 Bruno. I'm with Home Designs By Bruno. I've been
12 a certified green builder here in Connecticut for
13 over thirty years, and also being a member of the
14 Builders Association in Southeastern Connecticut
15 representing more than two hundred builders, we're
16 here to supply our support to the TVCCA as a
17 temporary subgrantee. So with that, I'll just turn
18 it over to Deb.

19 DEBORAH MONAHAN: Good morning, Carlene
20 and DSS. My name is Deborah Monahan. I'm the
21 executive director of the Thames Valley Council for
22 Community Action, the community action agency
23 serving New London County.

24 During these challenging economic times, it is
25 important that local communities work together to

1 address the issues facing our residents. The
2 President and Congress, in signing and passing the
3 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, want local
4 businesses, local vendors, and local communities to
5 be strengthened and economic recovery begin to
6 occur.

7 Under the weatherization initiatives funded by
8 the ARRA, Congress and the President recognize that
9 many low income families are faced with high energy
10 bills because their dwellings are old and not
11 energy efficient. The massive amount of money in
12 weatherization sought to alleviate these high bills
13 by weatherizing homes while stimulating local
14 economies and reducing our overall dependence on
15 foreign oil.

16 In order to accomplish this, Connecticut has
17 put forth a plan to weatherize a minimum of seven
18 thousand six hundred and forty-seven units, while
19 developing a green workforce, retaining and
20 creating jobs across the state. It will require
21 the coordination and collaboration by many
22 entities. Connecticut and the Department of Social
23 Services should be applauded for their vision in
24 using these dollars to strategically make
25 Connecticut more energy efficient.

1 TVCCA has been serving southeastern
2 Connecticut for over forty-four years. We are
3 highly accountable to the federal government, the
4 State government, local governments, and to our
5 constituents. We have had direct contracts and
6 positive working relationships with DSS for many
7 years.

8 We are requesting that the Department of
9 Social Services designate TVCCA as a temporary
10 subgrantee with direct funding for these ARRA
11 weatherization dollars. TVCCA will provide DSS
12 additional capacity in southeastern Connecticut to
13 weatherize low income homes at the local level with
14 local vendors, local partnerships, such as the
15 Eastern Connecticut Builders Association, and using
16 a local workforce.

17 We are a community action agency that has
18 experience in operating an effective weatherization
19 program. We have assisted low income individuals
20 and families in southeastern Connecticut for
21 forty-four years. We are responsive to the needs
22 of our community, most recently assuming the
23 operation of a child day care center in Groton when
24 the YMCA of Southeastern Connecticut closed.
25 Working with the Town, building inspector, fire

1 marshal, local public health and State Department
2 of Public Health, we received a new license issued
3 to TVCCA in less than thirty days. Services to
4 families were not disrupted. We work with our
5 communities and for our communities.

6 Our staff have developed and operated
7 weatherization programs, have extensive
8 construction skills, lead abatement expertise, and
9 the technical skills necessary to oversee an
10 effective and efficient weatherization program.
11 Most importantly, we are connected to our
12 communities. Following all the regulations, we
13 will utilize local businesses and vendors to carry
14 out this program.

15 We are the one-stop operator for eastern
16 Connecticut. Partnering with the Workforce
17 Investment Board and Three Rivers Community
18 College, we currently provide educational and
19 training opportunities to low-skilled workers.

20 President Obama, in his inaugural address,
21 stated that the state of the economy calls for
22 action, bold and swift, not only to create new
23 jobs, but to lay a new foundation for growth. The
24 success of our economy has always depended not just
25 on the size of our gross domestic product, but on

1 the reach of our prosperity, on our ability to
2 extend opportunity to every willing heart, not out
3 of charity, but because it is the surest route to
4 our common good.

5 TVCCA is requesting designation as a temporary
6 subgrantee by direct contract for these ARRA
7 weatherization dollars. It affords New London
8 County opportunities, builds capacity, and creates
9 and retains local jobs.

10 And I've attached to my testimony letters of
11 support from Three Rivers Community College, signed
12 by the president Dr. Grace Jones; the Southeastern
13 Council of Government, signed by the executive
14 director Jim Butler; the Chamber of Commerce of
15 Eastern Connecticut, signed by executive director
16 Tony Sheridan; the Greater Norwich Area Chamber of
17 Commerce, signed by President of the Board, Bob
18 Reed.

19 Thank you very much.

20 HEARING OFFICER TAYLOR: Thank you.

21 Edith Karsky.

22 EDITH KARSKY: Good morning. My name is
23 Edith Karsky. I'm the executive director of the
24 Connecticut Association for Community Action, which
25 is a State association for Connecticut's twelve

1 community action agencies. Thank you for this
2 opportunity to testify on the State plan.

3 You have the letter from the Connecticut
4 Association for Community Action, dated April 23rd,
5 which covers our comments and concerns in detail.
6 We also presented testimony yesterday to the
7 legislature on the overall plan. Today I would
8 like to address some of the questions and concerns
9 that came up at that hearing yesterday.

10 The U.S. Department of Energy statute and
11 regulations clearly establishes the procedures for
12 selection of entities for distribution of all the
13 funds to entities to conduct weatherization
14 activities. The selection rules establish
15 preferences that favor experienced, effective
16 Weatherization Assistance Program operators. For
17 example, the State plan must name the subgrantees
18 and demonstrate that all are Community Action
19 Agencies or other public or nonprofit entities, and
20 the State must give preference to those entities
21 that have or are currently administering effective
22 Weatherization Assistance Programs or Community
23 Action Programs.

24 Further, the regulation states the final
25 selection of each subgrantee must be made on the

1 basis of public comment received during the public
2 hearing and findings regarding the subgrantee's
3 experience and performance in weatherization or
4 housing activities -- housing renovation
5 activities, the subgrantee's experience in
6 assisting low income persons in the area to be
7 served, and the subgrantee's capacity to undertake
8 a timely and effective weatherization program.

9 The subgrantee must meet all of these
10 qualifications. It is not an either/or situation.
11 Therefore, we recommend that DSS follow the federal
12 guidelines and designate the current subgrantees,
13 which are the Community Action Agencies. The CAA's
14 have the expertise and ability to perform
15 immediately. And since last year's stimulus, the
16 agencies have already been ramping up to perform
17 these additional services and weatherize as many
18 homes and units as the American Recovery and
19 Reinvestment Act allows.

20 This is the current structure which has proven
21 to be an effective and streamlined process for
22 getting the funding to those for whom it is
23 intended. Currently, there are five CAAs providing
24 weatherization services, but all twelve CAAs have
25 past experience in weatherization programs and

1 other housing assistance programs, as well as
2 numerous other programs that serve the targeted
3 population.

4 Additionally, all twelve CAAs operate the
5 Connecticut Energy Assistance Program, which is the
6 first door of entry for weatherization assistance.
7 We are the ones in the neighborhoods and
8 communities who are on the front line of service
9 delivery. Our customers know us and trust us. We
10 are not fly-by-night operators who may be here
11 today and gone tomorrow. All of our agencies enjoy
12 the trust and support of their boards, their
13 customers, and their communities. Therefore, we
14 support the subgrantee and temporary subcontractors
15 concept in the State plan.

16 At a recent meeting of the Community Action
17 Agencies in Washington, D.C. with DOE Secretary
18 Chu, the Connecticut Congressional delegation, and
19 on a recent conference call Congresswoman Rosa
20 DeLauro, all of these leaders expressed their
21 strong desire that these funds be distributed to
22 the Community Action Agencies providing the
23 weatherization services, and that this happen in a
24 timely manner so that the units can be weatherized
25 and jobs created as quickly as possible.

1 Additionally, they noted that Congress
2 intentionally used a number of the formula-based
3 funding streams -- for example, weatherization and
4 the Community Services Block Grant -- for the
5 stimulus funding because they have confidence in
6 the current system and the operators -- that is,
7 the Community Action Agency Network -- and have
8 faith that these crucial funds will quickly get to
9 the low income communities, as intended, and for
10 the purposes of the funding -- job creation and
11 weatherizing units for energy efficiency --
12 important initiatives of the Obama administration.

13 The Community Action Agency Network and our
14 twelve agencies are the federally designated
15 anti-poverty agencies that have a proven record of
16 serving low income individuals and families. We
17 know our communities and most of the CAA
18 weatherization providers train and hire the crews
19 from the neighborhoods we service. Those agencies
20 that do not have their own work crews know and use
21 the local vendors from the neighborhoods served.
22 This is exactly the type of community stimulus and
23 local workforce investment in energy efficiency
24 measures that Congress and President Obama intended
25 in the American Recovery and Investment Act.

1 I ask that DSS stay with the federally
2 designated CAA provider network and contract with
3 current providers and their sister agencies that
4 are known in their communities to deliver
5 weatherization services to the State's neediest and
6 most vulnerable customers.

7 Thank you.

8 HEARING OFFICER TAYLOR: Thank you.

9 Kathryn Crees. Kathy will be joined by Peter
10 DeBaisi, who is the executive -- or president of
11 the Access Agency.

12 KATHRYN CREES: Hi, Carlene. It's a
13 pleasure for me to be here and speak about this.

14 As you know, we have been anticipating this
15 for quite some time. Representing Access, we are
16 the contracted Community Action Agency with DSS and
17 with the Connecticut Light and Power Utility
18 Company in Windham, Tolland, and New London County.
19 We have been providing these services, very
20 successfully, in those counties for the past
21 fifteen years.

22 One of the things we've done in anticipation
23 of this is we have begun to ramp up already. So we
24 have hired additional staff, we will be working
25 with them to take people directly off unemployment,

1 to be able to train them, and put them to work with
2 our contractors. Our contractors -- we met with
3 them -- they have already agreed to hire people
4 from whatever region, whether it be from the
5 southeastern region, the northeastern region --
6 wherever we are.

7 We currently have two hundred fifty units, and
8 our program just started April 1st, as you're well
9 aware. We have two hundred fifty units that are
10 currently under progress. So we know that we can
11 meet and exceed, as we always have, any of -- any
12 amount of units you put in front of us. We can
13 ramp up and meet that. We are not concerned about
14 that. We have our contractors who are adding
15 additional crews. We know that we can meet that
16 challenge.

17 One of the things that's been brought up is a
18 potential subgrantee. One of the things that I
19 think we need to be aware is that we do work with
20 TVCCA currently, and we actually compensate them
21 for providing us energy applicants so that we can
22 provide weatherization services in southeastern
23 Connecticut.

24 Whether -- no matter where the money goes,
25 what people need to understand is that over half of

1 the money that Access receives will be spent in New
2 London County. That is exactly where it's going to
3 be spent in southeastern Connecticut. We currently
4 have MOA's with the City of Norwich, through their
5 lead program -- to work with them through their
6 lead and their community programs with our
7 weatherization program. We are working on that
8 with the City of New London as we speak. We just
9 were at a training with them last week. So we will
10 be partnering with them, as well. We certainly
11 welcome a partnership with any other agency in that
12 area where we can work our weatherization funds
13 into them. We are well represented in that region,
14 as well as in northeastern Connecticut.

15 And to that end -- and I will leave them with
16 you -- I brought some press articles that show some
17 work being done in that area, as well as some
18 letters of thanks that were done, particularly, in
19 that area.

20 Now to speak of it as a whole, because that's
21 really what we're here for, we have the ability to
22 ramp up. We know that we can do the work. We do
23 have the contractors in place. We have met with
24 DWIP (phonetic). We've had discussions with the
25 community college. We have had discussions with

1 Eastern Connecticut State University. All of these
2 about how we can create green jobs around our area.
3 So that's what we're looking to do.

4 I think Peter might be able to add a few
5 comments to that and I'll --

6 PETER DEBAISI: The only thing I want to
7 add are two points. One is that the reason the
8 ARRA Weatherization funds is coming through the
9 Community Action Network is because the federal
10 government understands and DSS understands the
11 value of working with organizations that have
12 current experience. We have done this as a sole
13 subgrantee in eastern Connecticut for the past
14 fifteen years. I want to make that clear.

15 We have and we will work with our partners,
16 including TVCCA, in an appropriate role. We don't
17 think that role is as a temporary subgrantee. The
18 plan says that temporary subgrantee will be or may
19 be assigned if necessary. That's what the plan
20 says. It's pretty evident from our capacity, our
21 willingness to partner, the presence we have had
22 and continue to have in New London County, that to
23 set up a temporary subgrantee at this time would be
24 wasteful and an ineffective use of money, an
25 inefficient use of money, or to duplicate

1 administrative structures -- it's just not a good
2 use of funds.

3 However, I do want to make it exceedingly
4 clear that we are willing to work with our
5 partners. We see an important role for TVCCA to
6 play in this. We do not believe that that
7 appropriate role is as a temporary subgrantee.

8 The goal for this is about two hundred units a
9 year with new money, if we get the six million. If
10 we get the additional moneys through the DECD,
11 another four point eight would be allocated to the
12 region. That's almost \$11 million. That would
13 mean about five hundred more units a year.

14 We plan to -- we will complete two hundred
15 fifty units in the next three months. So to
16 suggest we don't have the capacity to ramp up is
17 just not accurate. We're doing those two hundred
18 fifty units with our current weatherization
19 dollars, Carlene, that you mentioned earlier, so
20 that when the ARRA money comes in we can hit the
21 ground running and do another two hundred fifty
22 unites before the end of the year.

23 That's my comments.

24 KATHRYN CREES: And I just want to point
25 out for anyone who wasn't there, we've also been

1 very successful in leveraging our dollars. For the
2 past few years that I've worked with the agency, we
3 have been number one in leveraging additional
4 dollars, and we think that with the partnerships
5 that we currently have in place with a lot of small
6 city's recipients, and towns, and the lead grant
7 that we currently have, as well as the housing
8 preservation grant and our partnership with New
9 London and Norwich, that we will be able to
10 leverage significant additional dollars with this.

11 HEARING OFFICER TAYLOR: Thank you very
12 much.

13 KATHRYN CREES: Thank you.

14 HEARING OFFICER TAYLOR: Edwin Williams.

15 EDWIN WILLIAMS: Good morning, Carlene.

16 My name is Ed Williams. I am the director of
17 weatherization for the Community Action Agency of
18 New Haven. I have prepared a statement already
19 submitted.

20 I have been in this position as director since
21 July of 2008. I have over twenty-five years
22 experience running successful housing renovation,
23 lead hazard reduction, and energy conservation
24 programs, including an energy conservation program
25 that won an award from the State of Connecticut for

1 innovation. I would like to talk very briefly
2 about the weatherization program that I run in New
3 Haven.

4 I have a staff of three, including one
5 coordinator and two State certified energy
6 auditors. I am a State energy -- certified energy
7 auditor myself. We service all towns in the New
8 Haven service area, which would be New Haven, North
9 Haven, East Haven, West Haven, and Hamden, as well
10 as all of the TEAM towns, which are Milford,
11 Orange, Woodbridge, Shelton, Derby, Ansonia,
12 Seymour, Beacon Falls, Bethany, and Oxford.

13 This past year we have weatherized a hundred
14 and thirty-three houses, which is one hundred
15 twenty-one percent of our original goal and
16 ninety-one percent of our revised goal. We have
17 been praised by DSS for having increased landlord
18 participation from last year. We have been praised
19 by DSS for having all jobs complete and inspected,
20 compared to previous years, and for making much
21 more timely payments to our subcontractors. We
22 have been told by DSS that the quality of all of
23 our inspected work remains satisfactory.

24 Recently, however, I have heard said that our
25 weatherization clients are not satisfied with our

1 service and that our weatherization contractors do
2 not want to work for us. I find this, frankly,
3 very hard to believe.

4 Regarding our clients, at the completion of
5 all of our jobs, our clients complete a survey, and
6 I have a copy of that which I will submit. The
7 survey consists of a series of questions evaluating
8 both our contractors and our agency. I have
9 reviewed every one of our completed job files,
10 including the surveys. I have not ever seen one
11 negative comment from any of our clients in the New
12 Haven towns or any negative comments from any of
13 our clients in the TEAM towns about either our
14 contractors or about CAANH. Instead, I have
15 received many verbal thank yous, several written
16 thank yous, and one box of chocolates.

17 Regarding our contractors, I have asked three
18 of our primary weatherization contractors to come
19 here and share with you their experience with
20 CAANH's weatherization program. I hope you listen
21 to them when they talk at this public hearing.

22 Incidentally, one of the contractors who
23 signed up, Derek Ferraiuolo, neglected to say that
24 he wanted to testify. He didn't check anything. I
25 respectfully request that when you get to his name

1 that you allow him to talk.

2 HEARING OFFICER TAYLOR: Okay.

3 EDWIN WILLIAMS: In closing, I am
4 confident that with additional weatherization
5 funding, CAANH can adequately ramp up and provide
6 the New Haven area and the Valley with the
7 increased weatherization service that is so
8 urgently needed. Thank you.

9 HEARING OFFICER TAYLOR: Thank you.

10 Sorry, I can't read the next name.

11 BOB FRANCIS: Good morning, Carlene. My
12 name is R. Tom Bob Francis. I'm representing the
13 Community Action of New Haven. I've been -- I
14 started in 1988 as an energy auditor with the
15 Community Action of Middletown, and I was there for
16 a few years performing energy audits, before they
17 cut them out and they closed the agency down and
18 the agency weatherization program. So I ended up
19 going on to open my own business.

20 I've been working for different agencies
21 around the State doing weatherization work, and
22 I've been doing it for almost fifteen years now.
23 I've been working with the Community Action Agency
24 since 19 -- of New Haven since 1997, and it's been
25 a pleasure, actually, working with the Community

1 Action Agency.

2 They have -- over the years, they have done a
3 lot to help the community, to help me out, to make
4 sure things are done right. Now, in the past,
5 there has been some problems, some negative
6 comments from people -- you know, they're upset
7 with one thing or the other. But every time we had
8 a problem, everything was always corrected. There
9 was never an ongoing problem.

10 The agency has started new leadership. They
11 have done a wonderful job so far. And in the last
12 couple of years, we have not had any major issues
13 or any kind of problems. The clients have been
14 very satisfied. We have gotten a lot of comments
15 about how great the work has been and about how
16 good the agency has been doing. Any time they have
17 questions on anything, the agency has answered
18 everything to their satisfaction.

19 As far as the work being done right now, we
20 have enough crews right now working, and we also
21 are in the process of getting more so that we can
22 make sure the work is done, and that other people
23 are being trained so we can make sure that work
24 being done is satisfactory.

25 Since it's been under new leadership, the

1 agency is going in a great direction under the new
2 leadership. They have inspected a hundred and some
3 jobs being done, the clients are happy with all the
4 work that's being done and with the new leadership
5 role. I just want to make sure the Community
6 Action Agency will still have the opportunity to be
7 a part of this thing going forward.

8 So, in closing, the agency has been stellar.
9 They have worked hard to make sure any problems in
10 the past, anything that went wrong, have been
11 corrected and they have been doing a great job so
12 far, especially with the new leadership and where
13 they are going. They are doing a great job and we
14 are happy, you know, with everything that's going
15 on right now. Okay?

16 HEARING OFFICER TAYLOR: Thank you.

17 Lois Britton.

18 LOIS BRITTON: My name is Lois Britton
19 and I am here as a concerned citizen and also a
20 recipient of the Weatherization Program. Prior to
21 them coming into my home, I was spending quite a
22 bit of money, as well as receiving assistance.
23 This year, I'm happy to say that I now have three
24 quarters of a tank of oil, which I would not have
25 had had weatherization not stepped in and assisted

1 me with insulation, lighting -- all different types
2 of things that help me as far as keeping my home
3 together.

4 I think Community Action Agency of New Haven
5 has come a long ways, and I think I kind of know
6 from the inception, as we both do. They've come a
7 long ways since then. A lot of changes have been
8 made, and I think that continuous funding to this
9 particular part of the program would certainly be
10 an asset -- not only to people like me, but others
11 who are in need of the services that are
12 recommended by the Weatherization Program.

13 I hope you take that into consideration and
14 know that there are elderly people who are really
15 struggling, people on fixed incomes who are really
16 struggling with the prices of oil and the energy --
17 the electric bills that are tripling on an annual
18 basis, and it's very difficult to maintain. So the
19 Weatherization Program certainly has a place in the
20 New Haven community. I can tell you that much
21 about it.

22 And, basically, that's all I really wanted to
23 say, and I hope that you can take into
24 consideration the funding continues, if not be
25 improved, actually.

1 Thank you.

2 HEARING OFFICER TAYLOR: Thank you. I
3 can't read the next name, either. It's from New
4 Haven. Andre? State your name.

5 ANDRE SKINNER: Good morning. My name is
6 Andre Skinner. I'm a client of Community Action
7 Agency of New Haven. I'm currently receiving
8 weatherization. Last week I received -- I heat by
9 electric and I received a UI bill for about \$700,
10 so I'm definitely looking forward to receiving
11 weatherization to my apartment so hopefully I can
12 see the savings that would have resulted from it.

13 Also, this is not my first time dealing with
14 Community Action Agency in New Haven. I've been a
15 recipient of their services once before, when I was
16 a kid. So, basically, Community Action Agency of
17 New Haven had been a reliable source to the
18 community. I would also like to see it continue.
19 Thank you for the opportunity to speak this
20 morning.

21 HEARING OFFICER TAYLOR: Thank you.

22 Roger Koontz.

23 ROGER KOONTZ: Good morning. My name's
24 Roger Koontz. I'm with Environment Northeast and
25 senior attorney for Environment Northeast. It's a

1 research and advocacy organization that
2 concentrates on energy policy and foreign exchange.
3 I would like to congratulate the Department on a
4 very well thought out plan, given the limited time
5 that you had to prepare. It is a tremendous
6 opportunity for both the low income customers and
7 for creating job opportunities in the state, as
8 well as minimizing energy use.

9 I'm a member of the Energy Conservation Board.
10 I'm not authorized to speak for them, but I can
11 convey what the board's attitude has been in the
12 past. The board has been very supportive of the UI
13 Helps and the C L and P WRAP program over the
14 years, and it continues to be that supportive and
15 looks forward to continuing to cooperate with the
16 Department of Social Services and the Community
17 Action Agencies in moving this new project forward.
18 And I know the board stands ready to accept help in
19 any way that it can.

20 In response to some comments yesterday at the
21 public hearing, I wanted to say a little bit about
22 the audit procedures. The proposed audit
23 procedures have been excellent. For me, I've been
24 involved in conservation activities for about
25 thirty years. It's been a significant evolution

1 how audits are done. The use of blower door
2 testing in recent years has been a major
3 improvement in diagnosing air leaks, which are
4 generally the most cost effective thing you can do.
5 And, also, being able to measure the impact of
6 what's done, because, frequently, sealants and so
7 forth -- we all know how much they've changed. And
8 the third advantage of it is that it ensures that
9 healthy ventilation is maintained because you can
10 make a building too tight.

11 Another -- and I was also pleased to learn
12 that the audit tool prioritizes improvements on the
13 basis of the cost effectiveness, and there was some
14 discussion about the importance of furnace
15 replacements which -- and -- which is certainly a
16 useful thing to do. It's important, also, to make
17 sure that the efficiency improvements are made
18 along with that, so that the furnace and boiler can
19 be properly sized for the building, instead of
20 putting in a huge furnace for a very efficient
21 building.

22 The Energy Conservation Management Board and
23 the utilities, also, in the recent years, have
24 developed a home energy solution program for
25 larger -- for non-low income customers, as a

1 companion piece. And the fact that that program
2 and the continuing need of low income means that
3 there are going to be very substantial job
4 opportunities in the future. And so I don't think
5 that anyone needs to worry that after three years
6 we're not going to -- there's not going to be a
7 need for the workers that we train through this
8 agency. There will be.

9 Thank you very much.

10 HEARING OFFICER TAYLOR: Thank you.

11 Deb -- you didn't say whether you were going
12 to testify or not.

13 DEB POLUN: I am.

14 HEARING OFFICER TAYLOR: You are? Okay.

15 DEB POLUN: Good morning. Still morning.

16 For the record, my name is Deb Polun. I am the
17 legislative director of the Connecticut Commission
18 on Aging. I also serve on the Low Income Energy
19 Advisory Board, but today I'm here speaking only on
20 behalf of the Commission on Aging.

21 I wanted to just first thank the Department
22 for putting together a really comprehensive
23 proposal for this infusion of federal funds into
24 our State. It's really an unprecedented
25 opportunity for our state to help meet the needs of

1 low income individuals, lower our overall energy
2 usage as a state, and create jobs. I've had the
3 opportunity to look at this plan, and as well as
4 some other states' plans for their use of
5 weatherization funds under the federal stimulus
6 bill, and just have a couple of comments for the
7 Department's consideration.

8 One first is that the State of New York does
9 contract for bulk purchasing of weatherization
10 materials, such as insulation and furnaces.
11 Setting up a similar system here in Connecticut
12 might be a little labor intensive on the front end,
13 but could certainly help to maximize the amount of
14 the work that could be completed on each home
15 moving forward.

16 Secondly, I would just like to comment on the
17 number of different jobs and training programs that
18 have been recommended over the past couple of
19 years, whether through legislative action or action
20 on the federal or state level administratively.
21 There are, like I said, a number of different types
22 of job training programs, all related to energy,
23 and I think it would be very useful for somebody --
24 perhaps DSS or the Department of Labor -- to create
25 an inventory of all the existing and planned job

1 training efforts in Connecticut relating to energy,
2 and just to ensure that there's synergy and
3 coordination among those programs and funding
4 source.

5 On this -- sort of on the same note, there
6 are -- because Connecticut has shown such an
7 enormous commitment to energy and weatherization
8 programs over the last several years, we do have a
9 number of different programs being run by several
10 different State agencies. It is a complicated and
11 fragmented system for consumers and -- so similar
12 to my last recommendation, I would recommend the
13 creation of an inventory, and sort of one-stop
14 shopping for consumers. I think this inventory
15 could also help reduce potential duplication in
16 State government, which is certainly a goal for all
17 of us this year.

18 And, also, the Legislative Program and Review
19 and Investigations Committee did just do a recent
20 study on all of the energy assistance and
21 weatherization programs, and I think their
22 recommendations are worthy of consideration.
23 Particularly, one for which there is a bill this
24 session which would change the application
25 requirements from annually to once every three

1 years.

2 Finally, again, just to try to coordinate all
3 the funding streams as well as possible, I just
4 wanted to mention that there are some funding --
5 there is some funding available for lead poison
6 prevention, and I think that that would fit in well
7 with the Weatherization Program, as well, and I
8 think it's worth looking to see if we can
9 coordinate that funding, as well.

10 Thank you.

11 HEARING OFFICER TAYLOR: Robert Podeswa.

12 ROBERT PODESWA: Good morning, Carlene.
13 My name is Bob Podeswa. I'm the chief financial
14 officer for Community Action Agency in New Haven,
15 and I would just like to make a couple of comments
16 about the Weatherization Program and some issues
17 that were mentioned yesterday.

18 One is that, as you heard from my director of
19 operation -- weatherization program, that we don't
20 have vendors that don't want to work with us. We
21 don't have clients that are not satisfied with us.
22 And two, we are not an agency in crisis. Over the
23 last several years the agency has worked very hard
24 to develop excellent managerial and financial
25 policies, and that has developed into a level of

1 transparency that I think can be demonstrated by
2 the two handouts that I gave the stenographer a
3 copy of.

4 One is a letter from DSS on the energy program
5 in which they inspected over four hundred and fifty
6 invoices and found no errors and the policies and
7 procedures were deemed to be efficient and
8 effective. Also, it was said that almost all of
9 the payments were consistently paid within two
10 weeks of receipt of fuel slips, which were deemed
11 to be very efficient. In addition, we just
12 received a report from DSS on the Weatherization
13 Program in which they stated that major
14 improvements have taken place in the program. And
15 so I submit that for your evaluation.

16 We've also just received three new contracts
17 from DSS: Three year's contract for energy worth
18 49 million, two year's contract for CSPG for two
19 and a half million, and two years on weatherization
20 for six hundred sixty-six thousand. I think this
21 shows that the agency is capable of performing the
22 tasks involved, not only as in the past but even
23 better as we go through the future.

24 I think it's important for -- to know that
25 without the stimulation money, we will be unable to

1 hire and train new workers to serve the needs in
2 our region. Especially in the valley area that Ed
3 Williams talked about, with our collaboration with
4 TEAM. We have several individuals identified as
5 potential trainees for the audit program, and this
6 would allow us to serve the anticipated demand of
7 the clients in that work area.

8 CAANH requests that they be granted
9 stimulation money for the new program to
10 effectively utilize these funds. With the amount
11 of money and work that has been identified and will
12 be on the table, it's important that all authorized
13 and accredited weatherization programs be able to
14 utilize this and take advantage and serve the
15 clients in the areas that we do.

16 Thank you.

17 HEARING OFFICER TAYLOR: Thank you.

18 Shirley -- we'll move on to the next person.

19 Beverly Goulet.

20 BEVERLY GOULET: Good morning. I am
21 writing in full support of Thames Valley Council
22 for Community Action's efforts to be designated a
23 temporary subgrantee for the American Recovery and
24 Reinvestment Act. I also wanted to mention that
25 our mayor and city manager also has written a

1 letter of support, that will be reported after me,
2 regarding TVCCA as a subgrantee.

3 TVCCA has had an exemplary history of
4 providing quality services to the residents of
5 southeastern Connecticut. They have always worked
6 in an effective collaborative manner with numerous
7 area public, private, and nonprofit entities,
8 ensuring that the people they serve receive the
9 benefits derived from a well-coordinated system.

10 I know this because I've been in this position
11 for twenty-four years and have worked in in many,
12 many different ways with TVCCA, and our department,
13 which is a city department, administers a variety
14 of programs for predominantly low income and middle
15 income people, including a very large senior
16 population, as well as a homeless population.

17 TVCCA has employees who are extremely
18 qualified to administer the Weatherization
19 Assistance Program and they will be working in
20 partnership with highly qualified entities, such as
21 Neighborhood Works/New Haven and the Eastern
22 Connecticut Builders Association, who you heard
23 from briefly earlier.

24 In addition, reflective of their long term
25 mission and commitment to help improve life

1 outcomes for families and individuals, they are
2 working with our Community College -- which is
3 Three Rivers -- and Workforce Investment Board to
4 develop energy related job training programs.
5 Training that will enable low income individuals to
6 compete for those jobs in the energy industry.

7 In closing, in light of TVCCA's knowledge and
8 record of achievement in managing a broad range of
9 programs in southeastern Connecticut and their
10 excellent working relationships with energy related
11 providers, community agencies, and municipal
12 officials, I urge you to designate this highly
13 regarded organization a temporary subgrantee for
14 the benefit of the residents of southeastern
15 Connecticut.

16 In addition, because this region is home to
17 three of the twenty-five communities designated by
18 the Department of Economic and Community
19 Development as distressed municipalities -- which
20 are Norwich, New London, and Sprague -- a
21 designation based on such factors as change in
22 employment, poverty rates, population changes,
23 etcetera, I believe it is imperative that the
24 Weatherization Assistance Program be administered
25 by an organization that is well qualified and in a

1 strong managerial position to get the job done and
2 done well. That organization is clearly Thames
3 Valley Council for Community Action, Incorporated.

4 I also want to mention that Norwich is one of
5 the few communities, along with Groton, that has a
6 municipally owned electrical company and they are
7 already undergoing, and have for several years, a
8 number of weatherization programs, and they will
9 work in close partnership with TVCCA in the
10 development of weatherization programs.

11 Thank you for listening.

12 HEARING OFFICER TAYLOR: Thank you.

13 Julie Savin.

14 JULIE SAVIN: First, I would like to
15 thank the Department for the opportunity to provide
16 this testimony today for this very important
17 hearing. My name is Julie Savin and I am the
18 director of real estate development for
19 NeighborWorks New Horizons for their new
20 southwestern Connecticut regional office in North
21 Stonington.

22 NeighborWorks New Horizons is a nonprofit
23 organization working to provide quality affordable
24 homes for working individuals, families, and the
25 elderly in Connecticut since 1992. We have

1 completed over five hundred housing units and
2 presently own and manage two hundred fifty units.
3 We have a real estate portfolio of over thirty
4 million and have seventeen years experience
5 leveraging private and public dollars, thereby
6 increasing the total benefit of all programming.

7 Headquartered in New Haven, our southeastern
8 Connecticut office, as I said, in North Stonington,
9 is privileged to partner with Thames Valley Council
10 for Community Action, TVCCA, and any efforts that
11 brings resources to the citizens of New London
12 County. TVCCA is an outstanding nonprofit social
13 service agency that has provided over twenty-eight
14 years -- twenty-eight service programs directly to
15 citizens of New London County for almost forty-five
16 years.

17 These programs currently reach over
18 twenty-four thousand eligible individuals and
19 families annually, with over nine thousand four
20 hundred enrolled in the energy assistance program
21 alone. In years past, TVCCA administered
22 Weatherization Program services as well, and did so
23 quite effectively. In fact, this program -- in
24 fact, this organization presently has qualified
25 staff and partners positioned to begin a

1 weatherization program in New London County on July
2 1st of this year, prepared to weatherize over four
3 hundred thirty homes in the next three years under
4 the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

5 TVCCA is the natural and obvious organization
6 of choice to service the residents of southeastern
7 Connecticut, and not solely because of its first
8 rate service record and qualifications. But
9 because the region's citizens have come to
10 recognize them as a community leader that advocates
11 for them and brings greatly needed services
12 directly to them.

13 It is because of this that NeighborWorks New
14 Horizons supports TVCCA in their efforts to be
15 designated as a temporary subgrantee, as well as
16 its operation of the Weatherization Assistance
17 Program funded by ARRA.

18 NeighborWorks' North Stonington office is
19 poised to mobilize swiftly as a partner of TVCCA in
20 any capacity needed by TVCCA, and willing and able
21 to contribute the NeighborWorks experience in the
22 development arena, its solid project management
23 track record, and comprehensive knowledge of
24 federal funding execution and compliance.

25 As a federally and state recognized community

1 housing development organization with years of
2 expertise, it is clear to NeighborWorks that not
3 only will the individuals and families of New
4 London County benefit from this initiative, but by
5 delivering services directly through TVCCA to the
6 local level, the local contractors will be afforded
7 work opportunities so critically needed in this
8 challenging economic environment.

9 I would also like to take this opportunity to
10 outline additional letters of support from both the
11 Town of Stonington and the towns of North
12 Stoning -- the Town of North Stonington, signed by
13 the First Selectman, the City of Norwich, signed by
14 the mayor and the city manager, and representative
15 Kevin Ryan of the one hundred thirty-ninth
16 district, representing Franklin, Lebanon,
17 Montville, and Bozrah. Also, to confirm,
18 hopefully, the facts received this morning at DSS
19 by Representative Steve Mitchell of the forty-fifth
20 district, representing Griswold, Lisbon,
21 Plainville, and Voluntown.

22 In closing, as stated earlier, NeighborWorks
23 New Horizons supports and recognizes TVCCA's
24 ability to serve the southeastern Connecticut
25 region through ARRA's Weatherization Program.

1 NeighborWorks strongly urges the Department to
2 designate TVCCA as a temporary subgrantee and,
3 in addition, to allocate \$3 million dollars to this
4 agency's efforts. Failure to bring ARRA funding as
5 locally as possible will prevent expeditious and
6 equitable fulfillment of the Congressional and
7 Presidential intent. Thank you.

8 HEARING OFFICER TAYLOR: Thank you.
9 Bobby Poole.

10 BOBBY POOLE: Good morning, Ms. Taylor.
11 My name is Bobby Poole. I am the executive
12 director of the Community Action Committee of
13 Danbury.

14 The Community Action Committee of Danbury has
15 had a long, successful collaboration with New
16 Opportunities, Inc. We collect, determine
17 eligibility, and certify applicants for energy
18 assistance in nineteen towns and cities of
19 northwestern Connecticut. The files of applicants
20 approved for weatherization are forwarded to New
21 Opportunities for inclusion in their weatherization
22 plan.

23 In addition to this historical collaboration,
24 we collaborate with them on the Eviction and
25 Foreclosure Prevention Program with DSS for the

1 three major towns -- Danbury, Torrington, and
2 Waterbury -- in northwestern Connecticut. We are
3 also collaborating with New Opportunities to
4 provide services to customers in a one-stop office
5 in Danbury.

6 Since 2003, DSS has had -- has sought to
7 foster a Human Services Infrastructure Process for
8 customers served in our community. That is, no
9 door is the wrong door for customers in need of our
10 services. In addition, the HSI Process fosters the
11 elimination of silos in organizations and enhances
12 the efficiency and effectiveness in meeting the
13 customer's needs.

14 So on April 9, 2009, when I returned DSS's
15 telephone call, I was surprised that DSS would
16 foster a plan of exclusion with certain Community
17 Action Agencies. The relationship between CACD and
18 New Opportunities has been building over the past
19 six years. Dr. Gatling and CACD has discussed a
20 subgrantee role for CACD in the weatherization
21 stimulus program.

22 CACD is prepared to support the attainment of
23 the goals of DSS through the recruitment and
24 training of staff to conduct energy audits and to
25 augment weatherization services of New

1 Opportunities in a time-phased process. This two
2 to three year program is also designed to address
3 the unemployment challenges that we are
4 experiencing across the state.

5 To deny CACD's service delivery area, this
6 opportunity smacks of inequitable treatment for our
7 agency and the customers we employ and service. I
8 request that DSS modify their current position and
9 allow CACD and its constituency to be assigned as a
10 temporary subgrantee, therefore allowing us to gain
11 the benefits of the weatherization stimulus
12 program.

13 We know that there are significant additional
14 funds to be delivered to the State of Connecticut.
15 We hope that the current anticipated action of DSS
16 are not reflective of the plans for those funds
17 under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.
18 What you do to the least of us, sooner or later you
19 do to us all.

20 Thank you.

21 HEARING OFFICER TAYLOR: Tom Morrow.

22 THOMAS MORROW: Morning. My name is Tom
23 Morrow and I am the executive director of the
24 Bristol Community Organization. BCO is a Community
25 Action Agency serving the residents of Bristol,

1 Burlington, Plainville, Plymouth, and Farmington.

2 I want to thank you for the opportunity to
3 speak to you about the proposed Connecticut State
4 Plan for Weatherization, and I want to thank the
5 Department and, particularly, Deputy Commissioner
6 Beaulieu for her comments yesterday in adding BCO
7 as temporary subcontractor. We believe BCO meets
8 every criteria that the federal government has
9 outlined in the American Recovery and Reinvestment
10 Act.

11 Since 1972, BCO has been the designated
12 Community Action Agency serving the greater Bristol
13 area. BCO has run a successful weatherization
14 program for over twenty-five years. Currently, we
15 work with the Community Renewal Team to identify
16 eligible households to weatherize. BCO also has a
17 certified energy auditor on staff who performs
18 energy audits for CRT. This individual ran BCO's
19 Weatherization Program in the past and is
20 knowledgeable about the program. BCO also has
21 several other individuals, including myself, who
22 were involved with the Weatherization Program when
23 all the Community Action Agencies ran such a
24 program.

25 For thirty-seven years BCO has been a place to

1 go for energy assistance and weatherization issues.
2 Our energy program, our Head Start program, our
3 senior homemaker, and transportation programs, as
4 well as our job training programs, are well known
5 in the greater Bristol area. The staff works well
6 with the population we serve.

7 The greater Bristol area is somewhat isolated
8 by a lack of transportation, making it difficult
9 for residents to get to Hartford and/or New Britain
10 to programs. Since the DSS office in Bristol
11 closed and the DSS office in New Britain moved a
12 distance from the center city bus line, residents
13 rely on BCO staff to assist them with applications
14 for state and federal programs.

15 Because BCO has worked with the Department of
16 Social Services, with CRT, and, more importantly,
17 with the residents of the greater Bristol area for
18 over twenty-five years, we believe we have the
19 capacity to undertake this program.

20 Thank you.

21 HEARING OFFICER TAYLOR: Thank you.

22 Shirley.

23 SHIRLEY BERGERT: My name is Shirley
24 Bergert. I'm with Connecticut Legal Services and I
25 represent low income utility and energy and

1 weatherization consumers in the state.

2 First, I would like to start out by commending
3 the Department of Social Services for pulling an
4 incredible plan together in such a compressed time
5 frame, for including underserved facilities like
6 shelters and expanding the rental housing work
7 that's going to be done under this money. It's an
8 unprecedented opportunity to affect comprehensive
9 weatherization for a population that is struggling
10 to pay its utility bills and energy bills, and it's
11 an unprecedented opportunity to develop a training
12 system that would last beyond the federal dollars
13 for this developing area of jobs.

14 The Community Action Agencies has been
15 repeatedly pointed out the preferred subgrantees
16 under the federal stimulus money, but we have an
17 unprecedented level of funding and the Community
18 Action Agencies historically have not been able to
19 deliver at far less funding amounts. I -- I would
20 like to see them develop an ability to ramp up and
21 have the appropriate training, but I think we need
22 a back up system and a supplementation system that
23 ensures that this money's appropriately and timely
24 spent.

25 Unlike other funds that have come into the

1 State, where some of the funds, if they aren't
2 appropriately expended in a timely manner, can be
3 rolled over, this money's going back to the federal
4 government if we don't appropriately expend it, and
5 I think that would be an incredible loss for low
6 income people in this State. So I don't want to
7 see this happen.

8 I have provided a copy of my testimony, and
9 attached to it I have provided you with a copy of
10 the PRR report, which puts the Weatherization
11 Program in the context of all the weatherization in
12 the state and has the documentation obtained from
13 DSS regarding the performance under the dealing
14 weatherization money.

15 When I say it's an unprecedented amount of
16 money, I just would like to point out that I think
17 it's really closer to \$79 million, because if you
18 add in the grant for this year, which is almost
19 five million, and assume that we will continue
20 under the Obama administration to get that level of
21 funding, that plus the ARRA funds is close to \$79
22 million.

23 So who can receive the ARRA grant funding?
24 There are a number of other entities that could
25 serve as subgrantees, and these systems could also

1 provide the kind of supplementation and back up
2 that is needed in Connecticut. I'm speaking
3 specifically to the Connecticut Energy Efficiency
4 Fund Programs that are now administered by UI, C L
5 and P, and CMEEC -- the Connecticut Municipal
6 Electric Energy Companies -- for the municipal
7 electric companies.

8 The funding for this program is almost
9 exclusively from utility rate payers. It's created
10 by state law. The administrators, in their
11 capacity as administrators of these funds, I think
12 are a public entity that could serve as a grantee.
13 Additionally, there's an oversight board for the
14 Connecticut Energy Efficiency Fund called the
15 Energy Conservation Management Board, also created
16 by statute, and that body could also serve as a
17 public entity for purposes of funding.

18 None of this use of supplementation and a back
19 up system would in any way minimize the Community
20 Action Agency's ability to participate in the
21 program because the utilities have always used the
22 Community Action Agencies as the preferred
23 contractors in the low income community to the
24 extent that they can timely and effectively carry
25 out services.

1 You've also directed funding through the
2 Department of Economic Development -- clearly a
3 public entity. I want to urge that DECD be
4 required to work with the Connecticut Energy
5 Efficiency Fund in determining how to expend the
6 funds that they're going to be given in this
7 program.

8 The science of efficiency is not intuitive and
9 appropriate cost effective weatherization measures
10 implemented in a safe way is not intuitive. The
11 CEEF has developed a network of contractors who are
12 well trained and have high levels of certification,
13 and they can help ensure that the funding is spent
14 in the most cost effective way and protects the
15 health and safety of the residents.

16 I'm also concerned about tracking and
17 reporting. I'm concerned, partly, because I want
18 to see the best services out there for the low
19 income residents in the State, but I'm also
20 concerned because I don't want any of this money to
21 go back to the federal government because we
22 haven't timely and effectively spent. So I want to
23 encourage DSS to beef up the tracking and reporting
24 portion of the plan. I want -- I want to encourage
25 you to have at least quarterly reporting done and

1 copies of those reports provided to the Energy
2 Conservation Management Board, the Low Income
3 Energy Advisory Board, and other interested parties
4 that are in a position to provide some assistance
5 if we are unable to timely expend.

6 Training for green jobs. This is such an
7 amazing opportunity to develop a system that will
8 last beyond the federal stimulus money that
9 coordinates all the systems out there that are
10 currently training the folks that we need to
11 prioritize some of this money. But the training is
12 only beginning to be coordinated. The funding that
13 directed that up front and got folks trained could
14 last beyond this three-year period.

15 So I want to encourage you to look at the
16 resources in Connecticut, and Connecticut has one
17 of the region's leading experts, somebody who's got
18 some national recognition at this point in green
19 job training development, and that's Bill Leahy at
20 the Institute for Sustainable Energy, which is at
21 the Eastern Connecticut State University. So it is
22 also a public entity and could be a subgrantee. No
23 one in this state has done the kind of coordination
24 that Mr. Leahy's done, and I think it would be a
25 very effective expenditure of funds.

1 The last thing is something that DSS has heard
2 from me many times over the years, which is access
3 to weatherization assistance is a real problem for
4 low income households that seek this assistance.

5 The first problem is that people who apply for
6 energy assistance -- and by statute, that is also
7 weatherization assistance application -- but the
8 Community Action Agencies add another layer where
9 they send a notice to all these households that
10 have been granted energy assistance asking if they
11 want weatherization assistance. I have repeatedly,
12 over the years, spoken to clients who believed they
13 did not have to return that card because they
14 understood the energy assistance application was a
15 weatherization assistance application. It seems to
16 me that it's a redundant level that shouldn't be
17 necessary.

18 We need a system where someone can come into a
19 Community Action Agency, be evaluated for whether
20 or not they are in the priority for weatherization,
21 and get on an appropriate waiting list that means
22 that they're not on a waiting list for decades,
23 literally, to get assistance. This is also
24 important with those of us in the community working
25 with low income families where we're trying to

1 stabilize families. Getting somebody appropriate
2 weatherization assistance may make a difference in
3 their ability to remain in their housing and
4 affording it to be made stable.

5 Thank you. There's other comments in my
6 written comments.

7 HEARING OFFICER TAYLOR: Okay.

8 Jodie Liddy.

9 JODIE LIDDY: Good morning. My name is
10 Jodie Liddy. I'm the executive director of
11 Rebuilding Together Hartford, Inc. It's a
12 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation based in Hartford
13 and dedicated to helping Hartford's low income,
14 elderly, and disabled homeowners, including
15 veterans, to live in warmth, safety, accessibility,
16 and in energy efficient affordable homes.

17 I'm here to describe our energy efficiency
18 program, its benefits, and why we are an
19 appropriate recipient of funds to expand our
20 programs pursuant to the Weatherization Assistance
21 Program component of the American Recovery and
22 Reinvestment Act.

23 Our program is committed to helping homeowners
24 age in place, in part by helping them lower their
25 energy costs. We repaired and rebuilt about twenty

1 homes on April 25th, 2009 with the help of about
2 seven hundred volunteers, mostly in Hartford's Blue
3 Hills Neighborhood. Every home qualified as low
4 income eligible and every home received some energy
5 efficiency services as part of National Rebuilding
6 Day. Rebuilding Together Hartford is part of a
7 national network of more than two hundred
8 affiliates nationwide that simultaneously performed
9 services on thousands of homes nationwide to help
10 needy homeowners with life, safety, accessibility,
11 and energy efficiency issues that day.

12 During the course of the year, we also repair
13 about seventy-five homes as part of our emergency
14 home repair program, which may include heat and hot
15 water repairs. We are committed now, and have been
16 since our nonprofit started its energy efficiency
17 program about three years ago, to delivering energy
18 efficiency services to every home we touch.

19 Our point in coming forward today is to
20 encourage the Department of Social Services to
21 approve Rebuilding Together Hartford as a grantee
22 or subgrantee for the important energy efficiency
23 and weatherization work that needs to be done in
24 Hartford. We recognize that the Community Renewal
25 Team is a Community Action Agency that currently

1 works in Hartford, and we know from experience that
2 there is much more than enough room for more than
3 one nonprofit to deliver these weatherization and
4 energy efficiency services in Hartford.

5 We've been using resources that include, but
6 are not limited to, WRAP, which is administered by
7 the Connecticut Light and Power Company, which
8 provides us with certain energy efficiency
9 supplies, to deliver those services. We raise
10 funds from charities and foundations, including
11 Washington D.C. based American Petroleum Institute
12 and state-based donors, to deliver significant
13 services. We are able to do that with our own
14 network of skilled volunteers and paid professional
15 contractors, along with national donors that
16 include Home Depot, Lowes, Sears, and other leading
17 organizations.

18 An example of our energy efficiency services
19 is worth mentioning. Two years ago, with a budget
20 of \$10,000 from the American Petroleum Institute,
21 we replaced all the windows in a ranch style home
22 with new low-E glass windows supplied by a local
23 manufacturer. We replaced insulation in the attic,
24 lighting, refrigerator, dehumidifier, and performed
25 other weatherization services, including insulation

1 and weather stripping. Only six weeks later we
2 received a beautiful thank you letter in the mail
3 from the homeowner that stated we lowered his
4 utility bills by thirty-five percent.

5 An example of our successful training program
6 that has included training Hartford homeowners on
7 lead safe work practices and other key issues
8 through our It's My House workshop series. We were
9 so successful in training on lead issues that
10 American Petroleum Institute gave us a significant
11 grant last year to finance the development and
12 production of an energy efficiency training video
13 that is now being used nationwide to train
14 Rebuilding Together volunteers and homeowners to
15 deliver energy efficiency services. That
16 internet-based training module is a handy resource
17 that is helping educate on weatherization and other
18 energy efficiency services, and our own volunteers
19 in Hartford participated in that training before
20 working on homes in Hartford.

21 We recognize that there is urgency to roll out
22 these ARRA funds to existing nonprofits serving low
23 income residents. We are ready, willing, able, and
24 trained to perform this work in Hartford. We think
25 the program needs more than one grantee or

1 subgrantee to be successful, especially in a city
2 such as Hartford, with older housing stock and
3 enormous community needs and an elderly population
4 struggling to survive. We respectfully submit that
5 there is room for more than one entity to perform
6 these services in Hartford. Simply stated, CRT
7 does good work, but cannot do it all. Rebuilding
8 Together Hartford, Inc., is already delivering
9 these services and can do much more to help
10 homeowners and promote the development of a green
11 jobs economy.

12 We thank you for your consideration in
13 supporting the important charitable work of
14 Rebuilding Together Hartford when you decide how to
15 allocate the Weatherization Assistance Program
16 Funds available to Connecticut through ARRA.

17 And now I would be happy to answer any
18 questions, but I know you don't have time for.
19 Thank you.

20 HEARING OFFICER TAYLOR: Thank you.

21 Patrick McDonnell, followed by Ronald Krantz.

22 PATRICK MCDONNELL: Good morning. My
23 name is Patrick McDonnell. I am the director of
24 Conservation and Load Management for United
25 Illuminating. I have submitted written comments.

1 I'll just paraphrase this morning -- this
2 afternoon, actually.

3 UI operates energy efficiency programs funded
4 by the customers -- charged the customers' electric
5 bills. These programs are created with the advice
6 and assistance of the Energy Conservation
7 Management Board and are reviewed and approved by
8 the Department of Public Utility Control. They've
9 become national models for energy efficiency, and
10 we have developed expertise in implementing these
11 programs that may be useful in the efforts that
12 you're about to embark on.

13 We stand ready to assist your agency, as well
14 as the Department of Economic and Community
15 Development in maximizing the use of the stimulus
16 funds. If our experience could be useful in any
17 way, we would be happy to help. We've developed a
18 great deal of experience in collaborating with
19 local utilities, as well and Community Action
20 Agencies in our service territory -- we think that
21 may be useful -- in maximizing the dollars that you
22 have before you spend. It's a significant ramp up
23 of the programs.

24 And we also, being located in New Haven, may
25 be especially useful in solving some of the issues

1 that have been identified, whether it is
2 identifying us as an administrator of these utility
3 funds, as a potential subgrantee, or if it's a
4 contract with the Department of Social Service, or
5 other collaborative approaches that may be used or
6 helpful.

7 Thank you very much and I'd be happy to answer
8 any questions you have.

9 HEARING OFFICER TAYLOR: Thank you.

10 Ronald Krantz.

11 RONALD KRANTZ: My name is Ronald Krantz
12 and I'm the director of the LAMPP project at
13 Connecticut Children's Medical Center. The
14 Department of Social Services has received four
15 grants from the U.S. Department of Housing and
16 Urban Development and an allocation of State bond
17 funds to remove lead hazards from low income
18 housing. Funding has totaled 13.5 million to date.
19 We operate those projects under a contract with the
20 Department of Social Services. The Connecticut
21 Children's has also recently received an award of
22 \$750,000 from HUD for a healthy homes project to
23 address other health and safety issues.

24 The Weatherization Program is one of many
25 fundings streams addressing housing-related issues

1 under recent federal stimulus moneys. These
2 include additional Lead Hazard Control and Healthy
3 Homes grants -- there's four in Connecticut that's
4 awarded -- Community Development Block grants --
5 twenty-three just awarded -- and the Neighborhood
6 Stabilization Program going to six cities.

7 At a national conference last week held by HUD
8 regarding lead and healthy homes, an overall theme
9 kept arising. One speaker said we have the
10 opportunity to do things right by addressing
11 housing related health, safety, and energy in a
12 holistic manner. The funding streams are still
13 coming down in stove pipes. That does not mean in
14 Connecticut that we have to do things piecemeal.

15 I urge the Department to adopt a one touch
16 approach to funding housing-related concerns.
17 There's an overlap between weatherization and lead
18 hazard control when you replace windows and
19 exterior doors. There's an overlap between
20 weatherization and housing rehab under Community
21 Development Block Grant Programs. There is an
22 overlap between weatherization and healthy homes
23 interventions that address moisture, mold, mildew,
24 radon, carbon -- CO.

25 We should be assessing the target housings for

1 all of these issues, minimizing the administrative
2 costs of enrolling and identifying these
3 properties. We need to bring together the funding
4 streams at the individual housing unit level. With
5 one touch, we can produce thousands of housing
6 units that are healthy, safe, and green.

7 I urge the Department to award weatherization
8 funds to agencies that can and will integrate
9 multiple issues and funding streams at the housing
10 unit level, requiring such integration in grant
11 contracts.

12 For example, the LAMPP project has worked with
13 housing rehabilitation programs in multiple cities
14 to address lead hazard, code issues, housing
15 improvements. We are adding healthy homes issues
16 to that effort. We can integrate weatherization
17 activities and funding in a seamless manner just as
18 well. And there are lots of other agencies that
19 can do that, such as Rebuilding Together, that can
20 bring together multiple sources of funds to meet
21 the specific needs of target housing.

22 This one touch approach can be very demanding
23 on a program, but the Department should demand no
24 less.

25 Thank you.

1 HEARING OFFICER TAYLOR: Derek
2 Ferraiuolo.

3 DEREK FERRAIUOLO: Derek Ferraiuolo and
4 my company is Ideal Fuel, and I am a heating
5 contractor for the Community Action Agency of New
6 Haven and I've been doing work for them for around
7 fifteen years. And I'm just hear to address the
8 questions about contractors don't want to work for
9 them and customers or clients who are having a
10 problem with the work that they're doing.

11 As far as the contractors -- I can't speak for
12 all of them, of course, but I don't have a problem
13 whatsoever with Community Action. It's more like a
14 family there than a company. They -- Ed Williams,
15 who is the director now, and Vinnie Ferguson
16 (phonetic), who was the director about a year ago,
17 have both given me their cell phone numbers, their
18 home numbers. I have called them after hours, on
19 the weekends, holidays, and -- to address a problem
20 a client was having with their heating system in
21 the middle of the winter. Some of these days it
22 was four or five degrees out. They gave me the
23 okay to repair the units.

24 I've been in homes where the elderly were
25 sitting around stoves because it was so cold, and

1 shivering. And, again, I make a call to Community
2 Action, this is what they need, and they would say
3 do it. One way or the other, we'll find the funds
4 to do it.

5 As far as the customers -- I've been a
6 contractor, I've had my own business -- a fuel oil
7 business -- for over thirty-five years, and I want
8 to tell you, you just can't please everybody all
9 the time. And some of these units that we go on,
10 these homes are ninety years old, a hundred years
11 old. I mean, the job is not going to come out
12 perfect. There's no way it can be done. And, you
13 know, I -- I've seen the guys blowing insulation in
14 the walls, outside, in January and February, it was
15 four degrees out, and I don't know how they do it,
16 but they're out there doing it.

17 So the contractors that are working for
18 Community Action are good contractors. The other
19 ones, why they have a problem, I don't understand
20 that. But I would just like to say I've been doing
21 their work for fifteen years. I've done other work
22 for other agencies in the New Haven area and, by
23 far, Community Action of New Haven is the best. I
24 don't see a problem with them whatsoever.

25 I'm in the fuel oil business and we've been

1 doing fuel oil deliveries for them, I would say, at
2 least thirty years, and we have no problem.
3 There's an issue that comes up, we call them, they
4 address it right away. I don't know what the
5 problem is.

6 That's all I have to say.

7 HEARING OFFICER TAYLOR: Thank you very
8 much.

9 Nichole Jefferson.

10 NICHOLE JEFFERSON: Good afternoon. I'm
11 Nichole Jefferson. I represent the Commission of
12 Equal Opportunities for the City of New Haven.

13 We are a semiautonomous agency mandated by
14 city charter to oversee all construction within the
15 City of New Haven. We also oversee all labor laws.
16 That includes Davis Bacon, prevailing wage,
17 inspection services, and we have the only
18 city-sponsored construction manpower training
19 program.

20 Our program is the first of its kind in the
21 region because we not only have our construction
22 training program, we also have our own union
23 training school, which is trained -- which is
24 currently training six different trades, which is
25 painting, plumbing, electrical, laboring,

1 carpentering, and just recently the bricklayer and
2 masonry.

3 In our school, we certify all candidates that
4 attend OSHA training, certified by the State of
5 Connecticut. We also do mold remediation training,
6 certification for asbestos and lead by the State of
7 Connecticut. Our training also includes all types
8 of safety and on-the-job training. Our training
9 facility is a little different than others because
10 the training sites are on-the-job training for
11 affordable housing units.

12 We rehab, gut, and renovate Housing Authority
13 of New Haven's burnt, blighted units. Not only do
14 we do that, we just entered into a contract with
15 one of the speakers that just left, which is
16 NeighborWorks currently, which was formerly of
17 Mutual Housing. We are rehabbing their units, as
18 well, for affordable housing. We also do mock-ups
19 for -- through the school for New Haven Reads --
20 literacy training, computer training, and all
21 aspects of our rehab and mock -- for low to very
22 low income people.

23 We were honored last year, because of our
24 training and because of our contract compliance, as
25 2007 and 2008's best building practices in

1 construction, training, and hiring across the
2 entire country. We have placed over five thousand
3 minorities in construction jobs city-wide in the
4 last four years through training and contract
5 compliance. We have placed over three thousand
6 residents on construction sites in the last four
7 years. Our female participation is the highest,
8 again, in the country. We are over seven percent
9 female in construction trades across the entire
10 country.

11 Our partners include the Office of
12 Workforce -- Office of Work -- OWC, and Department
13 of Labor, and I am currently a member of the Board
14 of Workforce Alliance. Our partners also include
15 Yale University, Yale Hospital, again, the Housing
16 Authority.

17 We are the only training agent within the
18 region that also trains youth built. Our youth
19 built class just ended April 30th. Our new one
20 will begin in July. Our candidates are very, very
21 low income kids from the ages of sixteen and a half
22 to the age of twenty-three. Those particular
23 children are integrated into our adult training
24 school and we train them, again, like I said, on
25 affordable housing units.

1 Not only do we do actual on-the-job training,
2 theory, and certification by the State of
3 Connecticut, we do a lot of endurance training.
4 Every candidate in our school -- we have fifty
5 candidates at a time or more -- they have to do a
6 two-mile jog every day before class begins. They
7 are currently working at seven sites within New
8 Haven, spread throughout with the teachers for
9 union construction training.

10 I think lastly and finally I would like to say
11 our experience, a, with housing renovations is
12 phenomenal. Also, the clients in which we serve
13 are very, very low income folks. Many are homeless
14 that live in cars outside of our training facility.
15 Our program that is in place is a model for the
16 simple fact that we are creating affordable housing
17 units for the public. So we're very proud of that.
18 We've currently been a recipient of OWC funds for
19 the last several years, and this particular program
20 has been under my jurisdiction since 2003.

21 I think that's it.

22 HEARING OFFICER TAYLOR: Thank you very
23 much.

24 Diane Randall.

25 DIANE RANDALL: Good afternoon. Thank

1 you for the opportunity to testify before you
2 regarding the Weatherization Assistance Program of
3 the American Reinvestment Recovery Act and its
4 proposed use in Connecticut. My name is Diane
5 Randall. I'm the executive director of the
6 Partnership for Strong Communities, a
7 Hartford-based policy and advocacy organization,
8 concerned with solutions to homelessness,
9 affordable housing, and the development of vibrant
10 communities.

11 The infusion of over \$64 million in
12 Weatherization Assistance to Connecticut presents
13 an unprecedented opportunity to improve the
14 sustainability and the energy use of the aging
15 housing stock in our state. It allows us to invest
16 in both the people and the neighborhoods of
17 Connecticut by creating jobs for a green economy
18 and making homes for the elderly, the disabled, and
19 families better places to live.

20 I'm going to touch on four points. I want to
21 touch on the investment in multi-family housing,
22 the investment in renewable energy, the investment
23 in jobs, and evaluation and results.

24 We support the proposed plan to invest up to
25 twenty million of weatherization funds in State

1 assisted multi-family housing through the
2 Department of Economic and Community Development.
3 The state assisted housing stock is in severe need
4 of exactly the type of energy efficiency
5 improvements that will both reduce energy
6 consumption and sustain the life of these homes.
7 Now, more than ever, we see households in our
8 cities and towns struggling to pay their housing
9 costs. It is critical to preserve every unit of
10 multi-family housing that is dedicated to serving
11 low income families and individuals.

12 We believe the Weatherization Program should
13 be available to all state assisted multi-family
14 housing that meets the income thresholds -- both
15 the state moderate income housing owned by public
16 housing authorities, as well as housing owned and
17 operated by private sponsors. This state assisted
18 housing is a significant asset in the state's
19 infrastructure; preserving this housing provides
20 policy benefits far beyond only energy savings.
21 Preserving this housing helps prevent homelessness
22 and offers stability for tenants who might
23 otherwise be forced to live in institutional
24 settings.

25 The proposed plan indicates a preference for

1 weatherizing housing units occupied by the elderly
2 where heat is not included as a first priority. If
3 these unites are in mixed population
4 developments -- that is, buildings or developments
5 that house both elderly and disabled, or even
6 families -- it is much more practical to weatherize
7 every unit in a building or development, rather
8 than designating only the units that are determined
9 by age of the tenant.

10 Our organization is keenly interested in
11 advancing policy solutions that reduce energy
12 consumption and promote renewable energy and green
13 building technologies. By the very nature of the
14 Weatherization Assistance Program, homeowners and
15 landlords and tenants whose homes are improved will
16 realize a reduction in the costs to heat and cool
17 their homes, and thus reducing energy demand.

18 In addition to simply encourage the use of
19 renewable energy, DSS might want to consider adding
20 use of renewable energy to the incentive pool, or
21 to determine additional methods to promote
22 renewable energy through leveraging partnerships
23 with utility companies.

24 Investing in jobs. The job creation potential
25 of this program, particularly in the possibilities

1 of assisting low income individuals, the
2 unemployed, and veterans to gain new job skills and
3 establish a career in a growing profession, is very
4 important. We encourage DSS and its grantees to
5 consider partnerships with individuals and
6 companies in the home building industry. The
7 economic recession has decreased work flow for
8 homebuilders and companies in -- and the
9 homebuilding industry. Partnering with these types
10 of companies might do a double benefit of assuring
11 the preservation of this industry, as well as
12 capable partners to developing a green workforce.

13 And, finally, I want to just comment on
14 evaluation and results. Recently I had the
15 opportunity to hear Secretary of Housing and Urban
16 Development Shaun Donovan speak on a couple of
17 occasions, and one of the elements that he
18 mentioned in his remarks about HUD -- again, I
19 understand this is Department of Energy funding,
20 but -- was the importance of being able to document
21 results. And, significantly, he cited the
22 evaluation work that's been done in Permanent
23 Supportive Housing as an example of the type of the
24 value of work that he believes his agency should
25 do.

1 We believe the same is true of this
2 weatherization funding from the Department of
3 Energy. That is, that the data collection for the
4 results of what has been accomplished by the
5 investment of these taxpayer dollars needs to be
6 clearly tracked early, and it needs to be reported
7 out. In other words, we need to have transparency
8 in what we are accomplishing by the results of this
9 investment.

10 The one other comment I would just make is
11 that in some cases I note that the \$20 million
12 going to DECD requires a match by the owners of it,
13 or a contribution, I believe --

14 HEARING OFFICER TAYLOR: Contribution.

15 DIANE RANDALL: Contribution. So I would
16 just say that I think that's a good concept, but I
17 think it also needs to be considered whether --
18 particularly if the housing is meeting a much lower
19 income population and it's able to achieve a
20 greater number of units that be weatherized, that
21 there be some consideration of waiver in that case.

22 HEARING OFFICER TAYLOR: Thank you.

23 Tom Phillips.

24 THOMAS PHILLIPS: It's great to know I
25 have a little bit more than a minute and a half,

1 like yesterday. My name's Tom Phillips, president
2 and CEO of Capital Workforce Partners. I would
3 like to just cover several points regarding the
4 proposed plan.

5 First of all, overall, we know that job
6 creation for dislocated workers in the current
7 economic downturn is really the cornerstone of the
8 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, also known
9 as the stimulus. So I'll be using the stimulus as
10 a reference.

11 But, again, because of the significant funding
12 increase, changes to national long-term energy
13 policy, that's -- that's going to be focusing more
14 and lessening the reliance on fossil fuels and the
15 development of green technologies. New longer term
16 job creation opportunities will be developed, not
17 just for the Weatherization Program -- Residential
18 Weatherization Program -- but hopefully we'll be
19 seeing that in the commercial and public sector
20 buildings in the future, as well. I guess the
21 point being this isn't, hopefully, a one shot deal
22 in terms of creating a sustainable weatherization
23 program beyond residential.

24 In order to achieve job creation, especially
25 for many currently low-skilled persons, we have to

1 really make sure that there's adequate and
2 accessible training opportunities. That will be
3 essential for them to have access.

4 The Act does allow for up to \$11.8 million of
5 total funding eligible for training and, basically,
6 I'm indicating that some additional funds should be
7 considered to ensure -- again, this isn't just a
8 pilot project. This is for weatherization, but
9 this is really about creating the talent pool for
10 sustainable weatherization activities that are
11 going to be going on for years to come. And the
12 current plan allocates a total of about \$5 million
13 for education and training, of which three and a
14 half million would be allocated through DOL, OWC,
15 and the workforce pools.

16 For those subcontractors needing to hire
17 additional workers to perform the weatherization
18 services, training will be needed through
19 apprentice-type programs that will require greater
20 resource than is currently allocated.

21 In addition, one of the things we talked
22 about -- we talk about new jobs, but we also have
23 to look at a lot of the existing construction
24 workers that have been laid off, that with some of
25 the certifications that we can provide them -- OSHA

1 certifications, etcetera -- these folks will now be
2 eligible to do this work, as well.

3 Further, I want to indicate that the
4 Connecticut Works Career System through one-stop
5 centers, through the Department of Labor and the
6 Workforce Investment Boards, are really ideal
7 locations to help maintain this ongoing specialized
8 training in the future as the industry continues to
9 evolve.

10 The other point I want to make is that the
11 state must take advantage of the existing education
12 and training infrastructure if it's going to
13 properly train new workers quickly, as required by
14 the stimulus. So, in other words, we have the
15 infrastructure in place, let's not try to create
16 another infrastructure if we don't need it, but to
17 kind of connect the dots in a way to better utilize
18 what's out there as a system.

19 Coordination is the key, and certainly Capital
20 Workforce Partners, as is the case with the other
21 workforce investment boards, have proven conveners
22 for multiple entities and contractors in each of
23 our regions. Further, we've built out some really
24 innovative ladder career opportunities in
25 different fields, such as health care,

1 manufacturing. So we have the experience to do
2 this.

3 For the workforce development system, the
4 State already has the existing jobs funnel
5 programs -- four of them located throughout the
6 state -- and as you heard the speaker before, have
7 trained, successfully, thousands and thousands of
8 folks for the construction industry. So, again,
9 you have the infrastructure in place to assist the
10 agencies and the subcontractors in this way.

11 The jobs funnel, formally -- for our jobs
12 funnel, formally known as the Hartford Construction
13 Jobs Initiative, it's one program that's ideally
14 positioned to provide the pre-employment training
15 needed to get many workers in north central
16 Connecticut not just successfully trained to
17 perform the weatherization work, but to provide the
18 skills that will allow these individuals to develop
19 a positive career ladder process. Again, we're not
20 looking for a one shot deal; we're looking at this
21 as an entry point into the weatherization system.

22 And, again, we have to look at this -- this is
23 a perfect means, especially for DSS, to deal with
24 the whole issue of tanner folks and the JFES
25 (phonetic) program, in terms of going towards

1 self-sufficiency, which I think is everybody's
2 goal.

3 The jobs funnel program has successfully
4 worked with -- our particular program has helped
5 several thousand members to -- a challenged
6 workforce population. I think that's the key
7 point. These are folks that have had many
8 challenges, whether they're ex-offenders or low
9 income. They've -- over the past ten years, we've
10 seen tremendous success of these individuals going
11 into the construction industry. And I think it
12 really tells us that this is a population that will
13 become more of a resource in the future as our
14 demographic challenges really start to hit home in
15 the next ten years.

16 The framework is ideal for the weatherization
17 plan that asks for a funnel-type service. It links
18 trainees to subgrantees and their contractors as
19 potential sources of hires. The funnel's success
20 ratio for hiring is impressive when you look at the
21 challenge of the profile of folks that we're
22 dealing with, and we expect this level of success
23 to continue.

24 The funnel program -- the funnel programs
25 throughout the state have forged key partnerships

1 with organized labor, contractors, including
2 minority and women owned, utilities, such as C L
3 and P and United Illuminating. Capital Workforce
4 Partners has also developed successful working
5 relationships, such as the Department of Labor,
6 Office of Workforce Competitiveness, Community
7 College System, Technical High School System, and
8 many secondary education systems in the development
9 of alternative career paths and career
10 competencies.

11 I wanted to point out, too, that we just had a
12 top to bottom comprehensive evaluation and
13 assessment done of the funnel program for our
14 region, and it's the first time it's been done in
15 its ten-year history, and the results of this
16 assessment came out exemplary in terms of the
17 funnels of the program over the last ten years.

18 My last point, for these reasons, Capital
19 Workforce Partners supports the job creation and
20 training components included in the proposed DSS
21 Weatherization Assistance Program to allocate up to
22 \$3.5 million in training in the creation of the new
23 jobs, but also enhancing the skills of existing job
24 funnel graduates who are already or are currently
25 unemployed. We would hope, also, that as the

1 program evolves that further consideration would be
2 given to increase that amount for the reasons I
3 just presented.

4 Thank you.

5 HEARING OFFICER TAYLOR: Thank you.

6 Bill Leahy.

7 WILLIAM LEAHY: Good afternoon. My name
8 is Bill Leahy and I'm the chief operating officer
9 for the Institute of Sustainable Energy at Eastern
10 Connecticut State University. I prepared some
11 written testimony, which I've submitted. I just
12 want to hit a few highlights for today's hearing.

13 Certainly the American Recovery and
14 Reinvestment Act for the Weatherization Assistance
15 Program has created a terrific opportunity for us
16 to make a significant difference in not only energy
17 use, but also people's lives and the impact that we
18 have on the environment.

19 The priorities of the ARRA are very clear.
20 First of all, it's to put people back to work. But
21 not just to work, but to put them into career --
22 excuse me -- family-supporting, career directed,
23 sustainable jobs. Ninety percent of these jobs are
24 projected to be in the public -- excuse me -- the
25 private sector, not the public sector. It's also

1 been put in place to encourage the growth in the
2 economy by promoting the development of new
3 businesses and new industries.

4 So when we look at this \$64 million two years
5 from now or two and a half years from now, we want
6 to be able to identify that we've made changes in
7 those areas. That people that we've trained are
8 still employable in the private sector and that
9 we've actually created businesses, especially in
10 our urban areas.

11 There are other goals involved, like reducing
12 our dependence on foreign oil and encouraging the
13 deployment of and production of renewable
14 technologies, as mentioned by some of the prior
15 speakers. Also, just reducing the cost burden on
16 homeowners and renters, but also taxpayers for the
17 heating bills for very inefficient buildings. But,
18 you know, the real crux of this bill is to put
19 people back to work and to stimulate the economy.

20 To do this, we want to create jobs. And these
21 green jobs tend to be of above average wages, they
22 tend to be open to people of all ages, genders, and
23 races, they give us the opportunity to redeploy
24 people whose industries have slowed down, but also
25 to employ the unemployed and the underemployed,

1 including youth at risk, put welfare moms back to
2 work, and also people who were recently
3 incarcerated.

4 What is needed, however, to make careers, as
5 opposed to jobs, is this progression of career
6 ladder. So we need to create an educational system
7 to support. And an example, which is in my
8 testimony, is, you know, starting off with
9 weatherization -- a good place to start -- would
10 include theory classroom, applications, laboratory
11 experience, on-the-job training, but it should
12 culminate with some sort of national certification.
13 That way the person is able to move from one
14 location to another and the training is, obviously,
15 applicable to whenever they are.

16 They could then go on and become, if they are
17 successful, envelope specialists, where they can do
18 door and window replacement, attic insulation, and
19 so on. That would, obviously, make them available
20 to the contracting industry as home improvement
21 contractors. We could train them and -- then, if
22 they are successful, to be energy auditors or
23 analysts, so that they could apply those skills
24 they developed in weatherization and envelope to
25 the theory and be order takers, estimators,

1 inspectors, crew supervisors, material building --
2 building material salespeople, commissioning
3 agents.

4 So this is the progression ladder that we're
5 looking at to create this training. To do this
6 training, we would like to use the existing
7 infrastructure in Connecticut. And, that is, the
8 community colleges have been very responsive over
9 the years for meeting job needs in specific areas,
10 and also in creating national certification
11 programs. We do a lot of our nursing training at
12 the community colleges, and a lot of specialized
13 training in various areas.

14 On the other hand, our community colleges
15 don't tend to have the hands-on technical training,
16 but our technical high schools do. So what we've
17 done is we've formed a marriage between these
18 two -- a partnership -- where the technical
19 community colleges can create certification
20 programs and affiliate with the national standards,
21 but they can offer these courses in the technical
22 setting of the technical high schools. These
23 buildings are very under-utilized after three
24 o'clock in the afternoon, and that's a good time
25 for re-training people who are in fields already,

1 who are working during the day, but it's also a
2 place to do hands-on training in a laboratory
3 setting.

4 Again, I want to stress the use of national
5 standards. There are national standards for nearly
6 any of the green collar jobs, and that includes
7 everything from weatherization to energy auditing
8 to commissioning agents to health and safety
9 inspectors to renewable site analysts and renewable
10 equipment installers to green builders. All of
11 these have national certification that we can link
12 education programs to.

13 I did notice that in the proposed plan the
14 level of funding for a unit is significantly
15 higher, which means that we'll be doing a lot more
16 than caulking and weather stripping, but able to
17 make significant capital changes in some of these
18 buildings, up to as much as \$10,000. This means we
19 need people who are able to diagnose problems in
20 heating equipment and insulation levels that might
21 not have been as apparent under the weatherization
22 programs in the past that -- that focused more on
23 the quicker fixes and lower costs solutions.

24 The Institute -- in closing, I would just like
25 to say the Institute is available to help DSS and

1 the other State agencies that are working on these
2 funding programs. Our expertise is in the
3 renewable field, as well as the energy efficiency
4 field, but our primary duties are in the field of
5 education.

6 Thank you.

7 HEARING OFFICER TAYLOR: Thank you.

8 Joanne Balaschak.

9 JOANNE BALASCHAK: Good afternoon. My
10 name is Joanne Balaschak. I'm hear today
11 representing New Opportunities.

12 First, I would just like to comment on an
13 observation. You know, we've been involved in this
14 program for so many years and I've never seen
15 people at a hearing before. So I guess money
16 does -- people do follow the money. Just an
17 observation.

18 At New Opportunities, we do support the plans
19 with our -- you know, at first we were undecided
20 about and kind of disappointed with the decision to
21 utilize the DECD to provide weatherization
22 services. But right now, as we think about it,
23 we're now looking at getting exited about using --
24 you know, developing a working relationship with
25 another partner. We look forward to that. You

1 know, we would like to see all these -- you know,
2 CAA's involved in this plan, but if not, we will
3 form some partnerships to address any unmet issues.

4 One of the -- a prime example is that if the
5 Community Action Agency of New Haven isn't allowed
6 to participate, the CRT team and New Opportunities
7 have met and will provide the necessary services to
8 get the work done. And we will use local
9 businesses. We're not going to, you know, just go
10 to Waterbury and, you know, order materials from
11 someone that -- always been working with. We will,
12 you know, use local vendors and, you know, of
13 course, use DOE specs to purchase the materials.

14 Much has been mentioned regarding our capacity
15 to perform the job. And, you know, I think we're
16 addressing that -- the capacity issue. You know,
17 there -- for many years, the DOE funding, there was
18 not a lot of money put into that program. We
19 have -- you know, it's not only an insulation
20 program, or putting in a lamp or light bulb. You
21 know, we do a whole diet of RCSI where -- and an
22 audit that DOE requires. We do blower door
23 testing, we do -- we do insulation, sidewall
24 insulation. It's -- you know, people seem to think
25 that it's kind of like a wrap-up seal program that

1 we're operating, but it's much more than that.

2 And, you know, with the limited funding, you
3 know, we -- and we at New Opportunities, just as an
4 example, we have also hired our crews and we have
5 maintained that crew. With the -- what the DOE
6 allows you for program support to maintain the
7 crews, we were running a deficit. I mean, because
8 of the fact that our crews cost more than when you
9 get \$2.50 for every dollar in materials. So I just
10 wanted to -- you know, I mean, you know, we could
11 have chosen to contract the work out but, you know,
12 we thought that it was more of an employment
13 program, as well as a program to conserve for
14 the -- for the households that we are already
15 identifying through our energy program.

16 You know, I mean, in the past, we have -- last
17 year we saw eighteen thousand households in our
18 energy program and we had the money to maybe
19 weatherize a hundred and seventy households. It's
20 not like we don't want or we don't have the
21 capacity, it's an issue that -- you know, that
22 people don't understand.

23 And also, you know, the capacity issue, too,
24 is right now we are developing partnerships with
25 our one stops, and, you know, we have -- you know,

1 all the Community Action Agencies are involved with
2 the one stops, and what we want -- you know, what
3 we would like to do and what we have done in
4 Waterbury, we have already met with our one-stop
5 and they have identified twenty-five potential
6 candidates for us to hire, and they've already put
7 them through the lead safe training, which is
8 required, the OSHA training, and, you know, we've
9 taken all of those applications and we're just
10 going through them now. We're going to identify
11 the best candidates for crew and auditors, and
12 it's -- you know, I -- I really believe it will
13 work out well in employing what the purpose is --
14 to employ the unemployed.

15 So, you know, I would just like to -- I mean,
16 really, that is my only comment and, you know, I
17 hope we have the opportunity to -- to, you know, to
18 operate this program and work with you further.

19 Thank you.

20 HEARING OFFICER TAYLOR: Thank you. Is
21 there anyone here who is not signed up to comment,
22 but would like to comment?

23 THOMAS DEAN: Good afternoon. My name is
24 Thomas Dean. I'm with the Livable City Initiative
25 of the City of New Haven, Connecticut. I had not

1 planned to speak before this Commission; my visit
2 was largely fact gathering and observation. But
3 seeing that the Department has yet to select an
4 agency as a subgrantee for the City of New Haven, I
5 thought at least I would come up and introduce the
6 City and the Department that employs me.

7 The Livable City Initiative is the primary
8 agency or sub unit of the City of New Haven for the
9 preservation and prevention -- preservation of
10 existing housing units, prevention of blight. We
11 perform inspections of existing units for the
12 determination of -- of maintaining code compliance.
13 We also provide document assistance to a variety of
14 organizations relative to the rehabilitation and
15 construction of affordable housing within the City
16 of New Haven. We also are involved with the Lead
17 Hazard Control Program and administer, on behalf of
18 the Department of Health of the City of New Haven
19 and Yale University, the Lead Hazard Control
20 Program funding for the City of New Haven.

21 We also have been involved in developing
22 houses, ourselves, as a unit. All of the housing
23 that we are involved in for the last year is
24 required, to receive our funding, to be energy star
25 certified. We have been involved in the

1 preservation and the rehabilitation of thousands of
2 units of housing since the middle 1990s, and have
3 been -- and was credited, prior to the recent
4 economic distress, of reducing the number of vacant
5 units within the City of New Haven from a high of
6 close to nine hundred by over a third during that
7 time period.

8 We appreciate the -- the potential that this
9 program offers, as seen in the documentation
10 presented. The number of units that the program to
11 be funded through the DSS would provide to the City
12 of New Haven is a substantial number of housing
13 units, and we wish to express our concern that this
14 program do dovetail with other funding streams for
15 the development and preservation of affordable
16 housing, and advise the DSS that fact that the
17 Livable City Initiative is, itself, embarking or
18 has embarked upon its weatherization program for
19 residents of the City of New Haven. And we would
20 hope that these funds administered through DSS
21 would -- would act in a seamless stream to the
22 efforts that our unit is already endeavoring to
23 provide.

24 And to that end, I'll conclude my remarks and
25 thank you for the opportunity.

1 HEARING OFFICER TAYLOR: Thank you.

2 If no one else wishes to testify, we will go
3 off record.

4
5 (Whereupon a brief recess was taken from 12:57
6 p.m. to 1:35 p.m.)

7
8 HEARING OFFICER TAYLOR: It is now 1:35
9 and the public hearing on funding from the
10 Department of Energy for the American Recovery and
11 Reinvestment Act and for the regular DOE program
12 for 2009/2011 is now closed.

13
14 (Whereupon the Hearing adjourned at 1:36 p.m.)

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CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that the foregoing pages are a complete and accurate computer-aided transcription of my original stenotype notes taken at the Department of Social Services Public Hearing regarding the Weatherization Assistance Program, which was held at the Department of Social Services, 25 Sigourney Street, Conference Room 2A, Hartford, Connecticut on May 5, 2009.

IN WITNESS THEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 19th day of May, 2009.



Gretchen Sisk, LSR #460
Commissioner

My Commission expires on:
September 20, 2010